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The
Sunset Beacon

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Eviction Protection Proposed For Legacy Businesses

By Thomas K. Pendergast

San Francisco's legacy small business owners might get some eviction protection if legislation now before the Board of Supervisors that temporarily exempts them from the mayor's plan to 'streamline' the business permit approval process passes.

Legislation passed last year lifts restrictions on certain qualifying commercial businesses like bars or restaurants that required a Conditional Use Authorization (CUA), which can involve a lengthy process for businesses to be granted approval for their plans, including providing public notice and attending hearings – a CUA can add months to the process of opening a business.

Yet the process also gives neighbors advanced warning about coming changes and to have their voices heard at Planning Commission and department meetings, for example, if those changes involve the eviction of legacy businesses.

According to the Legacy Business Program, the legacy designation is given to businesses that have been open for at least 30 continuous years. The business also must have impacted San Francisco's identity and must be dedicated to keeping its traditions alive. The program was created in 2015 to support historical businesses; members can receive grants, business and marketing help as well as recognition from the City.

Joe's Ice Cream on Geary Boulevard in the Richmond District is an officially registered legacy business with the City but is also facing possible eviction now that their building has new owners.

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Other Avenues Celebrates a Half Century Serving the West Side

A few of the workers/owners at Other Avenues pose outside the store on Sept. 19 in front of a mural celebrating the co-op's 50th anniversary. Pictured are (L-R) Chris Julian, Janna Velásquez, Ryan Corning, Maria Delgado and Luke Larson. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

By Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff

Other Avenues is a different kind of business. A new shopper may not know that Other Avenues Co-op is not owned by a single person, but its loyal customers know, celebrate, and support its unique, non-hierarchical structure. Another reason they like to shop here is that they do not have to look for organic produce. It's all organic! And so are many of their packaged and bulk food items.

From its birth in the mid 1970s, as a volunteer-run food-buying club and eventually a worker-owned co-op, the mission of Other Avenues has been based on an environmental commitment to distribute organic groceries and unpackaged bulk food by purchasing from local farmers and vendors whenever possible.

Other Avenues, known fondly as OA, has faced challenges. Many small businesses in the Outer Sunset had shut down during the recession of the '80s. However, its dedicated

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Work Plans Released for Multiple UCSF Construction Projects

By Thomas K. Pendergast

The latest plans for the massive building projects on the Parnassus campus of the University of California San Francisco were made public recently, amid neighborhood concerns about noise and pollution as construction is already well along.

Officials at the medical center said that while there are multiple projects slated there during the next few years, three of them are far more prominent than the others: UCSF Health Helen Diller Hospital; Bakar Research and Academic Building (BRAB); and the Parnassus Central Campus Site Improvements (PCCSI).

As for the noise, UCSF's Associate Director of Community Relations Jaclyn Drexler laid out the audio pollution parameters that they're using during demolition of old buildings and construction of the new.

Monday through Friday during "regular hours, not noisy work, less than 80 decibels within 100 feet" will start at 7 a.m., but then at 8 a.m. noise levels above 80 decibels at 100 feet will be allowed up to 5 p.m.

Occasionally they will have to opt for "extended hours" from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, but with noise levels restricted to 80 decibels or less within 100 feet.

On Saturdays, hours may be extended for work on that day of the week, although from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. only 80 decibels or less within 100 feet will be allowed, as well as from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays, however, the noise levels will be allowed to go above 80 decibels at 100 feet.

Hours might also be extended to Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. when needed but only at 80 decibels or less within 100 feet.

Of the three major developments, the new Helen Diller Hospital is currently in the construction phase, which is expected to be completed sometime in 2029 or 2030, with the official opening in 2030.

Right now, crews are working on deep foundations of that building, shoring up the hillsides with retaining walls. Much of the construction work will have to be done in phases over the next couple of years so that the campus will remain accessible.

The second building under construction, the footprint hole for which is the most obvious from Parnassus Avenue, will be called the Bakar Research and Academic Building (BRAB).

They are in the construction

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Outer Sunset's Sealevel Gallery a Multi-Purpose Community Hub

By VaNessa VerLee

Walking down Irving Street in the Outer Sunset, you may have passed by the sweet little community space called Sealevel, with its enthusiastic canine mascot, Finn, happy to greet passersby from the window. Unlike Finn, founder Jeana Loraine prefers to stay out of the spotlight, focusing on creating safe spaces for others to shine.

A California native, Loraine moved to Zurich at age 7 and spent 28 years there, but never felt like she fit in.

"I never felt like I fit in anywhere," she said.

Her fondest memories were trips to San Francisco with her dad, where she always felt a spark.

Josh Kornbluth performs "Citizen Brain" on Sept. 15, part of the Sunset Solos series at Sealevel Gallery on Outer Irving Street. *Photo by Jeana Loraine.*

"Our move here (in 2013) was a leap of faith," she said.

She and her husband arrived without a job, home or community, and settled in the Sunset, the only affordable option. Initially, the weather was hard to adjust to.

"I love the sun," she admitted, "but the fog has grown on me."

Loraine's first job in town was at Devil's Teeth Bakery, which became the seed of the vibrant community she is now part of. After six months on Noriega Street, they moved to Irving Street, next to the space where Sealevel would later be born.

"Living in the Sunset District has given me a sense of belonging I hadn't felt before," she shared. "I felt like home for the first time here."

In her 20s, after being

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Black Bird Bookstore and Cafe a Community-Oriented, Mission-Driven Space

By Sue-Jean Sung

Black Bird Bookstore and Café, the Outer Sunset staple serving coffee and good reads, was not Kathryn Grantham's first foray into opening and operating a community-oriented, mission-driven space.

Before Black Bird on Irving Street and 46th Avenue, there was Black Bird on Judah Street and 45th from 2017 until 2022. And before Black Bird on Judah and 45th, there was Bluestockings Cooperative Bookstore in New York City in 1999. Given Bluestockings' continued success and its Wikipedia description as "a radical bookstore, café and activist center," it is easy to see that the apple does not fall far from the tree.

When Grantham moved to San Francisco in 2015, she settled on the west side with her children and partner at the time. She noticed families being drawn to the Outer Sunset and felt a rising energy of discovery: Folks who grew up here moved back, and families found their way west from other parts of the City. As more kids populated the avenues, she found herself fantasizing about opening a children's bookstore.

Black Bird Bookstore on the opening night of an exhibition of the work of local water photographer Sachi Cunningham. *Photo by Jeff Canham.*

"Growing up, I would sit on the floor of chains like Barnes and Noble and read under fluorescent lights," Grantham reflects. "Even though the setting was generic and corporate, I would feel so grounded as I read books that opened worlds I didn't have access to. I felt a deeper connection to humanity as I learned about different cultures and went on adventures I wasn't personally experiencing. Providing windows and doors to 'otherness,' so to speak, is a social justice role that bookstores can uniquely fill in their communities."

When a space on Judah became available in 2017, on the heels of President Donald Trump's inauguration, Grantham took the plunge and established the first iteration of Black Bird with blind optimism and a 1-year-old in tow. She rode the wave of society's motivation to decouple from the administration's role in defining people's identities and instituted a third place centered around books and human connection. To serve everyone as best as she could, she decided to source materials for both adults and children.

With the move to a bigger space, including a yard and second floor, two and a half years ago, programming was able to expand. Not only can events like art shows, open mic nights, and flea markets hold more bodies, but the coffee shop attracts people who might not normally seek out a bookstore. The block on Irving has become a destination over the years, with neighbors like Hook Fish, Yoga Beach and Mollusk Surf Shop.

"Everyone who walks in and buys a book or a coffee is investing in the community," Grantham said. "We all live here. The money goes to the staff, who then pay rent here, grocery shop here, eat out here. It feels good to feed our own village through the local economy.

"This is especially true when people feel disconnected and dismal about the world. Certainly, we have to be following what's happening at a global and national level, but investing in our own neighborhood and creating the world we want to live in feels more possible and rewarding."

Grantham's intentional prioritization of elevating the diverse voices of the local and global majority through book curation, programming and employment models reflects Black Bird's mission. She wants to underscore that not only is Black Bird a place in the neighborhood to tighten the knit of the community by seeing one another, celebrating creativity and raising the new generation together, but it is also a place with inclusive representation that considers its "first community," the employees, first.

"If our first community is healthy, then we can serve the greater community in a healthy way," she said. "That means providing livable wages, health insurance, and a shared vision. And in the end, it's not about me personally opening 16 different Black Birds. We want to grow within our walls and in the fun things we can do. The goal is a sustainable model, not a growth model, that can ideally be replicated. My dream would be to see a community-built bookstore in every neighborhood."

Grantham spoke about the best way for people to support the bookstore.

"Come share your art, your words, your creative spirit!" she said.

Whether attending and perhaps even reading for the first time at an open mic night or pitching and teaching a workshop, the spectrum of opportunities for involvement at Black Bird is wide.

Grantham also shared her vision for the future.

"In the next year, we will be working on deepening our offerings to reflect this neighborhood's diverse cultures, languages and storytelling, she said. "That includes further integrating and collaborating with the Chinese community – those who have been crucial to the foundation of the Sunset."

Black Bird Bookstore and Café is located at 4541 Irving St. It is open daily 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Learn more at blackbirdsf.com or call 415-742-5203.

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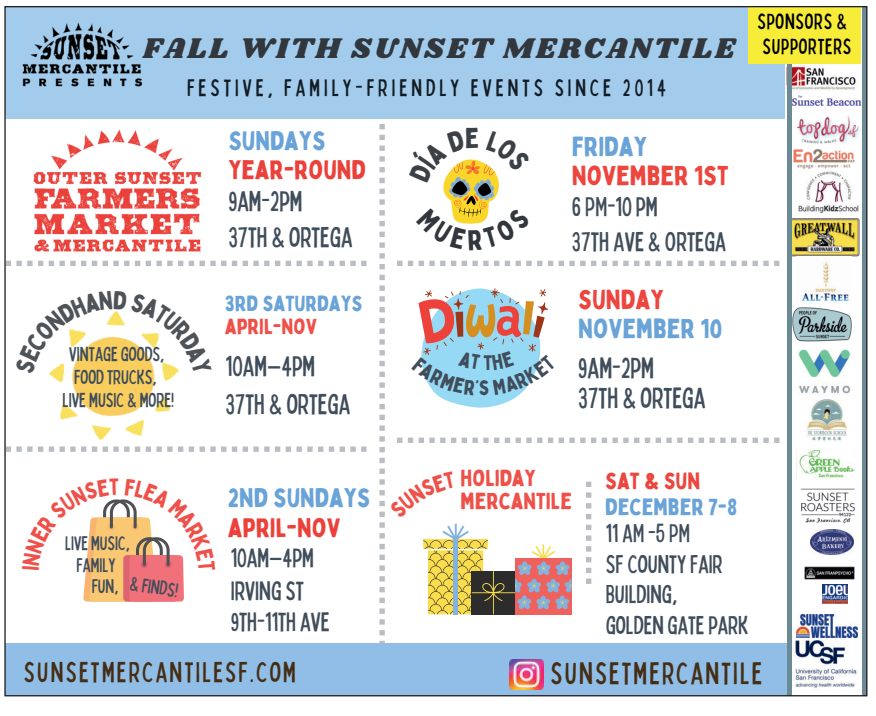

The Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club has been serving the west side for the past 75 years.

For more information about Lions Clubs International, monthly meetings and what we do for the community, call Paul at (415) 831-0461.

Lions Pride: Serving the west side for the past 75 years!

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Playing Like It's 1886, Golden Gate Park's Vintage Baseball Throwback

By Nicholas David

Members of the 2024 SF Pelicans pose for a team photo on their home field, Big Rec in Golden Gate Park. The team belongs to the Bay Area Vintage Base Ball League. *Photos by @stan_the_rocker.*

To even the most uneducated in the rules of modern baseball, a home run is the thing to get. Knocking one over the fences and out of bounds is maybe the most iconic image associated with the sport, and the fastest way to earn points in a game.

So, Big Rec's two open diamonds – with their fenceless, overlapping outfields extending far beyond the reasonable field of play – might seem to most players like a necessary drawback, the price of admission to play on not one but two great public baseball fields, grandstands and pitcher's mounds included.

Not so for the members of the Bay Area Vintage Base Ball League (BAVBB), who cherish the diamonds at Golden Gate Park's Big Rec for their resemblance to those played on in the 19th century. The league's five San Francisco teams all call Big Rec home field on Sundays during the season, and most recently it was the site of its postseason Golden Gate Cup tournament.

Big Rec "is the most legit vintage baseball field in the City because it doesn't have fences, it's just a field. And that would have been accurate to the way it would've been played in 1886," said Matt "Ranger" Petty, president of the league and longtime San Francisco Pacifics player. The Pacifics were the first San Francisco team in the league, formed shortly after Corey "Pup" Gazay and his dad founded BAVBB with the San Jose Dukes.

"We started off in the early days with the Spalding Guide," Gazay said, referring to the official 19th-century rulebook. "Thankfully, digital copies of that still exist."

BAVBB adheres to the 1886 edition. "We've tweaked some of the rules in the name of safety, just to make sure that a bunch of old guys can come out here and not get hurt all the time," Gazay said, cracking a smile.

To be sure, the league is not just "a bunch of old guys." Players range in age from 20s to 50s, and younger players often discover the league simply because Big Rec puts BAVBB on display.

"I was walking by the field one day and I saw guys playing baseball and I was like, this is amazing," said Paul "Pickles" Rambaud, who just finished his second season with the Pacifics. Rambaud played in high school and college. His story is not an uncommon one, and it is not hard to see why. Players sport thin leather gloves, fasten their string-tie pants just below the knee, and some teams wear emblazoned front-button bibs. That is to say nothing of mustachioed umpires (called "Sir") who make calls on the field dressed in three-piece suits, accessorized with top hats and pocket watches.

A couple of the distinguishing features of the Bay Area Vintage Base Ball League are the tiny gloves and the throwback uniforms. Socks (stockings) play an important role in baseball history with several teams in Major League Baseball still named for them: The Red Sox, the White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds.

"Is this vampire baseball?" I heard a passerby cry out, referencing the twilight movies. In a sense, she was not far off.

Others discover the league online, like Keegan "Deadeye" Tatum of the Mission Reddingtons, who discovered it on Reddit, and Peter "Chowder" Kohli of the San Francisco Pelicans, who read about it in the news. Tatum said he feels like he "fits in a lot better here" than in modern men's softball or hardball leagues, a feeling shared by many of his league mates.

Everyone emphasized the league's culture. Players regularly give themselves up on close calls as the "Gentleman's Code" calls on them to do, and teammates give each other fitting or ironic (but always vintage) nicknames – "Chowder" hails from Boston, "Union" used to work for the labor department. League members use vintage vocabulary ("good ginger," a term of encouragement, "Texas League" a type of hit), and opposing teams congratulate each other with sincerity. Games end with three cheers of "Huzzah" – one for the opposing team, one for the "cranks" (fans), and one for the Sir.

"We had some awesome cohesion this season, and that's what makes a team win," SF Eagles Manager Will "Smalls" Lyons told me after his team's first-ever playoff victory in September. Early on in the game, he called himself out at second base to end an inning.

As for those drawbacks when compared to modern baseball, BAVBB players relish the challenge of their form of the game. "Classic vintage play," Kohli commented after some excitement on the field.

"Looked like he was gonna make the play, but it popped out of his glove," he said.

In the flurry of post-pandemic running clubs and pickleballers that seem to be the San Franciscan's only refuge from Zoom calls and email work, BAVBB offers a unique alternative. It is a friendly community for athletes, showmen and history buffs alike, and a place for friends to gather over food and drink to support each other as the sun peaks in and out of the fog. For President Petty, the pandemic "really put into focus how important it is to be able to get together and do that on Sunday, not just for playing baseball, but the friendships and the close games and figuring out the lineup."

Newer players echo this sentiment. "That's what the allure and the draw to this is. It's not just baseball, it's the community that it brings together," said recent Pacifics recruit Andrew "Boo" Deaver.

Playing at Big Rec has even been an act of "connecting generations" for Pelicans player and Outer Sunset resident Kenny "Switchblade" Cantwell, who retired from the league after this season, his 10th and final. He said a relative of his played on these fields for the Mission Reds, an early professional team in San Francisco.

"So my mom was really excited that I play out here," he said, "because she used to watch him play out here."

Bay Area Vintage Base Ball is comprised of 10 teams, five in San Francisco and another five in the East and South Bay. The 2025 season is set to begin in March.

Players interested in joining the league can find more information at BAVBB.com.

Real Estate

John M. Lee

November Election

The November election this year is turning out to be a very contentious one all the way around!

We will be choosing the next president, mayor and supervisors as well as having combative ballot measures to contend with. I will stick to my expertise and cover the real estate related measures in this column and comment on others that can have an effect on real estate.

There has been so much money poured into this election it is difficult to discern what is the truth sometimes. And, with some clever usage of AI technology, what once was ridiculous had me questioning my own sanity at times. It seems that everyone is distorting and interpreting the measures to fit their own political agenda. Maybe that should be obvious in politics, but I think it has gotten worse and worse each year.

Mayor

We have five viable candidates running for mayor: London Breed, Mark Farrell, Daniel Lurie, Aaron Peskin and Ahsha Safai.

Recent polls have moderates Breed, Farrell and Lurie in the lead. Peskin a distant fourth and Safai is far behind. This race will boil down to who can get the most second and third place votes as ranked choice voting will come into play in this race.

Breed is campaigning on a new and reborn San Francisco. Farrell is running on charges of failed policies and that changes are needed. Lurie is promoting himself as being an outsider who can do a better job running the City than all these people who have been in power. Peskin is catering to the progressive base. Safai is straddling in the middle.

My ranked choice votes are going to be for Farrell, Lurie and Breed in that order as I think we need changes in City Hall. Breed has had enough time to perform but the results have been slow in coming. Farrell has done the job before and has the experience. Lurie is a breath of fresh air and appears to be competent to get the job done. So, I am hoping for some changes in City Hall.

District 1 Supervisor

In the Richmond District, we have a rematch of the 2020 race where Marjan Philhour lost to Connie Chan by 125 votes after ranked choice voting. Marjan has stayed active in the community after that race. This year, with redistricting and with Sea Cliff moved to D-1, it will be a tough race. Ranked choice voting most likely will not come into play this time as there are only two leading candidates. Chan has served the community well but deviated from what the residents supported in recent elections. My vote goes to Philhour.

Ballot Measure

Many of the ballot measures are asking for money allocation or issuing bonds to pay for items. All the asks are for good causes. Nobody is against kids, police, firefighters, nurses, first responders, schools, seniors, families, etc. But what I am seeing is this terrible trend.

We are operating with our highest-ever budget of $14.6 billion – more than some individual states! I feel like the politicians are allocating the money to all their other pet projects first and then coming to the voters for money to fund these important essential projects that we need to run the City because they know the voters will vote for these projects but not for the ones they funded. And with all the scandals that have been going on, I hesitate to vote for more funds until they can clean up their financials.

Proposition K

Prop. K seeks to permanently close the Upper Great Highway (UGH) to private vehicles to establish a public open recreation space. This is easily the most contentious ballot measure of the year. Why District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio placed this on the ballot and is leading the charge on this measure is beyond my comprehension. This has divided the west side of town and, if you look at Nextdoor or other social media sites, you can see how passionate people are about the UGH.

During the pandemic in 2020, the UGH was closed because of shelter-in-place measures, and people needed places to recreate. After the pandemic, a compromise was reached to open the UGH from Monday at 6 a.m. to Friday at noon, leaving Friday afternoon and the weekend for people to recreate. The compromise was to stay in place until Dec. 31, 2025.

However, Engardio, along with several other supervisors, decided to put Prop. K on the ballot at the last minute without any community input. There have been studies done, and one of the main plans was to reduce the UGH to one lane in each direction leaving room for more recreation. People who use the road for commuting and other purposes are absolutely upset that they were blindsided by this measure.

There have been accusations of using false data to conclude that the UGH is no longer needed. But there have not been any disputes that 14,000 to 20,000 cars a day that use the UGH will still use the road and will be dispersed to the neighboring streets whether that is the nearby residential streets, Sunset Boulevard or 19th Avenue.

For me, I don't like people changing the rules when there is a compromise in place. I would rather see people work together than being divisive on the future of the UGH. So, I urge a "no" vote on K so we can keep the compromise and start having a dialogue on what to do with this important road.

We live in a great country and have the freedom to vote and voice our opinions. Whether you agree or disagree with my choices, I urge you all to vote this Nov. 5, or sooner with the mail-in ballot dropping in your mailboxes in early October.

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Sunset Homes Sold in September*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
1974 47th Ave.	2	1.00	800	$1,268,000
2191 26th Ave.	2	1.00	1,250	1,301,000
2030 Rivera St.	3	2.00	1,628	1,488,000
3214 Taraval St.	3	3.00	1,558	1,500,000
2650 18th Ave.	2	1.00	1,250	1,570,000
2167 28th Ave.	3	2.00	1,425	1,610,000
1678 43rd Ave.	2	2.00	2,029	1,700,000
1922 31st Ave.	4	3.50	2,129	1,740,000
1562 33rd Ave.	4	2.50	1,985	1,815,000
1912 Sloat Blvd.	5	3.00	2,098	1,900,000
2550 31st Ave.	4	3.00	2,193	2,045,000
3827 Lincoln Way	5	5.50	2,901	2,760,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

UCSF Construction Projects

Continued from page 1

phase for this building as well, laying down retaining walls and shoring up the hill in anticipation of laying the foundation. They expect total construction will last until 2027, with an opening sometime in 2027-2028.

According to the BRAB's Senior Construction Manager Steven DeFant, 165 piles have been drilled so far and he expects shoring type activity to go on into November.

They are still in the process of removing dirt and will go down about 35 feet below grade before they are finished. Nevertheless, they will start laying deep building foundations as early as September.

DeFant said this phase will take about another four months and there will be more deep drilling down to the bedrock involved.

He also mentioned that he and some other UCSF staff went up to the factory near Boise Idaho where 10,000 custom-made pieces of structural steel are being fabricated for this project right now.

"If you laid those end-to-end, you'd probably end up with about 16 miles worth of structural steel," DeFant said.

The bedrock they will be drilling into is Franciscan Shale.

This building is going to be 10 stories tall, which includes a half-story space for utilities that are commonly found on rooftops.

The current School of Nursing building will be demolished and replaced with the Parnassus Central Campus Site Improvements (PCCSI) project.

Project Manager Shelia Laub said this project will extend utility infrastructure to support west campus development, upgrading it to improve energy efficiency.

The new building will comply with the university's seismic policy.

In the meantime, the School of Nursing is planning a temporary move to the Wayne and Gladys Valley Center for Vision at the Mission Bay campus this year. Eventually, the School of Nursing will relocate back to the Parnassus campus.

Access to the "heart of campus" will be improved with a pedestrian connection between a promenade and Saunders Court. The pedestrian connection will be across the area vacated by the demolished School of Nursing building and surrounding area, which is expected next year.

Completion of the PSCCI development is expected sometime in 2027.

Learn more at realestate.ucsf.edu/current-projects.

Big changes are underway at the Parnassus campus of the University of California San Francisco Medical Center in the Inner Sunset District. Officials at the medical center said that, while there are multiple projects slated there during the next few years, three of them are far more prominent than the others: UCSF Health Helen Diller Hospital; Bakar Research and Academic Building; and the Parnassus Central Campus Site Improvements. *Photos by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

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Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

'The Truth as I See It'

It was Adlai E. (for Ewing) Stevenson, then-governor of Illinois and the Democratic Party candidate for president of the U.S.A. for a second time who spoke via radio and television on election eve (Nov. 8, 1956) thusly: "Looking back, I am content. Win or lose, I have told you the truth as I see it. I have said what I meant and meant what I have said. I have not done as well as I should like to have done, but I have done my best, frankly and forthrightly; no man can do more, and you are entitled to no less."

Can voters apply that dictum to Ms. Kamala Harris and Mr. Donald Trump? Heck, no. Trump continues to agitate supporters about his 2020 loss and justify the Jan. 6, 2021, effort he instigated to deny his defeat by U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden; Harris hasn't changed her spots since she lied to the Ethics Commission about the amount of her expenditures to justify use of taxpayer money via public finance of her campaign for district attorney, which I exposed to readers in my January 2019 column.

Unknown to me until last month, thanks to Sunset resident Robert Guichard, was a Nov. 5, 2019, column by San Francisco native Terry McAteer in the Nevada-Grass Valley Union. Terry, the youngest son of late state senator and San Francisco Supervisor, J. Eugene McAteer, who died on a handball court at age 51. Terry McAteer was elected Nevada County superintendent of schools for six four-year terms. His son Gregory, then in college, was an unpaid intern in Harris's attorney-general office and couldn't wait to leave for then-U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat after only one month, reporting that Harris "vocally throws around 'F bombs' and other profanity constantly in her berating of the staff and others." Harris ordered her whole staff to stand each morning upon Harris's arrival at the office and proclaim: "Good Morning general!" Young McAteer was instructed also never to address Harris "or look her in the eye" as that could only be done by senior staff members! I've commented several times on her Republican opponent's crimes and military service evasion during the 1960s. We Americans deserve better presidential candidates, while hoping the nation survives four years of Trump or Harris.

Meanwhile, I reiterate my recommendations of London Breed for mayor, Matt Boschetto for District 7 supervisor, Moe Jamil for District 3 supervisor, Marjan Philhour or Connie Chan for District 5 supervisor, Ann Hsu and Lefteris Eleftheriou for beleaguered Board of Education and Leanna Louie for City College's governing board. A real estate lawyer whose wife and child live in Alameda County while he registers to vote on upper Montgomery Street, Richard Woon, runs against City Attorney David Chiu without knowing Chiu isn't responsible for prosecuting City Hall's corruption cases because our splendid district attorney, Brooke Jenkins, has that assignment – fortunately. Chiu is worthless, but Woon lacks qualifications. I'll leave that one blank. Speaking of the city attorney, did you realize Chiu has 206 deputy city attorneys? I didn't until Woon told me there were 180 deputies, which is inaccurate. Those deputies enjoy annual salaries of $147,917 to $325,728. The latter is even more than Chiu's healthy stipend of $316,838 per year.

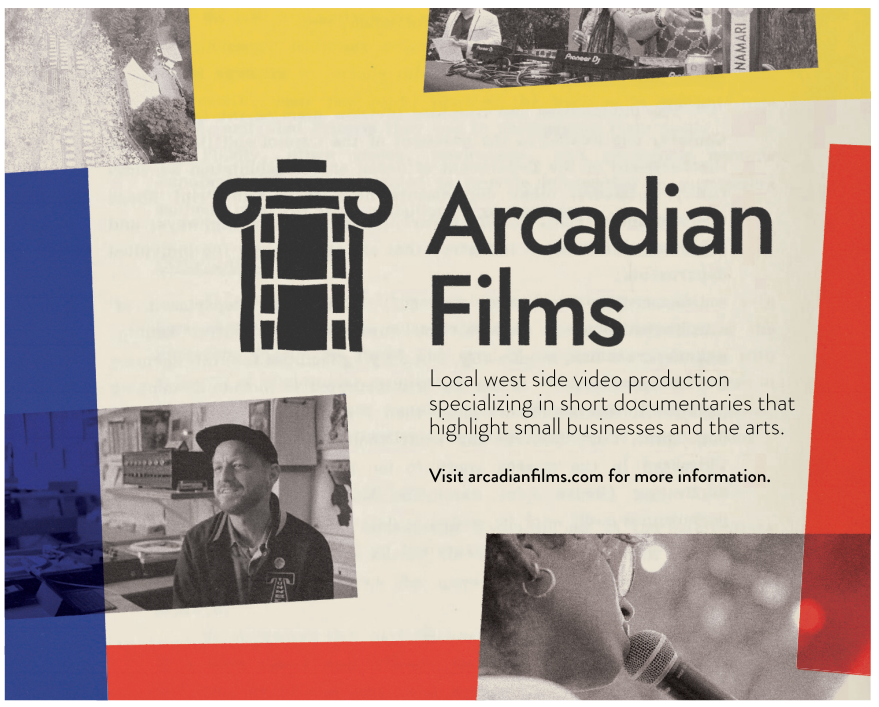
State propositions abound – 11 in number. As usual, the State Capitol taxeaters lead with a bond, Proposition 2, a $10 billion borrowing to renovate or build new public schools and community college buildings. With interest, it'll cost $18 billion. I'm voting a loud "no!"

Proposition 3 legalizes same-sex marriages in California under our state Constitution. Naturally, S.F.'s own Scott Wiener is the measure's lead author. Despite Wiener, I'll vote "yes."

Proposition 4 is yet another $10 billion bond. This one's for natural resources and "climate activities." Much of the $10 billion would be given to local governments, Native American tribes (?), nonprofits and private businesses over 50 years, carrying interest of $400 million annually. Jon Coupal of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association points out that, just two years ago, California's surplus was nearly $100 billion, which would've paid the entire cost of the Proposition 4 bond with only 10% of such surplus. Now, taxpayers are squeezed for horrendous taxes to repay this bond. Vote "no, no, no."

Proposition 5 makes it easier to fleece taxpayers by reducing a state constitutional requirement that has been in effect since 1897, namely requiring 2/3rd voter approval on bonds. If Prop. 5 passes by majority vote on Nov. 5, henceforth only 55% voter approval, not 66.75%, will be mandated to pass local bonds. It is retroactive, applying to Nov. 5 local bonds, thus shifting burdens to local government which will accrue more debt from

Continued on page 11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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADAPTIVE BIKE PROGRAM

San Francisco's free Adaptive Bike Program in Golden Gate Park on Saturdays through Oct. 26 provides hand cycles, foot trikes and tandem bikes for use on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The adaptive cycles will be available at the Music Concourse behind the Bandshell (75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.), next to the accessible parking lot. No reservations are needed; first come, first served. For more information, call 510-848-2930 or email sfcycling@borp.org.

BARBARA LANDIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark your calendar for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 12 and 13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Barbara Landis Photography hosts her annual Open Studio show at 679 48th Ave. (north from Balboa). This show includes jury-curated vintage and current photography in black and white and color, scenics from the Bay Area and overseas. Limited short-term parking available. For more information, please call or text the artist at 415-668-4486 (leave a voicemail) or email at barbara.landis@gmail.com. Follow on Instagram: barbara_landis_photography.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stance on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

COMMISSIONED SALES POSITION AVAILABLE

Earn extra income while getting to know your neighborhood and neighbors better. Ad sales for the Sunset Beacon is a fun way to learn more about local businesses. No quota, no set hours, work at your own pace letting business owners know about their advertising options. Generous commissions. Sales experience helps but is not required. To learn more, call 415-706-6428, or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

COSTUME DINNER DANCE

The San Francisco Scottish Rite is having a costume dinner dance fundraiser on Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at 2850 19th Ave. at Sloat Boulevard. $75. For more information, contact secretary@scottishrite.com.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for a one-on-one session in English. Friday, Oct. 25, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Ortega Library (3223 Ortega St.). We are also seeking volunteers who speak English and/or Cantonese. For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, SUNSET BRANCH
1305 18TH AVE., 415-355-2808, sunmgr@SFPL.org

• Presentation: The Impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia In Our Community
Saturday, Oct. 5, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Discover the impact of Alzheimer's and dementia, local resources, and how you can join the fight against Alzheimer's and all other forms of dementia. There are nearly seven million Americans who are living with Alzheimer's, with more than 11 million people serving as their unpaid caregivers. This escalating health crisis profoundly impacts our community.
• Tutorial: Tech Support Popup for Seniors, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 4-5:30 p.m. Are you an older adult? Do you have questions about your smartphone, tablet, or laptop? If this sounds like you, we have answers. Volunteers work with you to solve your tech issues. You will have the chance to win a free tablet device. Refreshments provided. Tech support available in English and Chinese. This event is part of SF Tech Week.
• Author: Eddie Ahn, Saturday, Oct. 12, 3-4:30 p.m. Author Eddie Ahn discusses his new graphic memoir, "Advocate: A Graphic Memoir of Family, Community, and the Fight for Environmental Justice." Attendees will receive a free copy of the book while supplies last.
• Tutorial: Tablet/Smartphone class for older dults 60+ and adults with disabilities. Friday, Oct. 18, 1-2:30 p.m. Self-Help for the Elderly's training program is ideal for those seeking to enhance their technical skills. The program focuses on hands-on training, allowing participants to become proficient in using their smartphones and tablets. Bring your device along and prepare to become an expert! Device Type: iOS and Android Topic: Camera. Learn the basic function of the camera and how to use the camera to scan QR code? Space is limited. Reservations required: 415-355-2808 (starting Oct. 4).
• Workshop: Travel Apps. Thursday, Oct. 24, 2-3 p.m. In this Community Tech Network (CTN) workshop, you'll learn how to use online tools like Expedia to enhance your travel experience. We will talk about creating an itinerary, finding tickets for flights and experiences, and book accommodations. We'll also talk about general advice to get a deal on travel and avoid common headaches while traveling. This workshop will be presented in English, with Chinese translation provided by CTN staff. This program is geared toward older adults 60+ and adults with disabilities. Space is limited. Reservations required: 415-355-2808 (starting Oct. 10).
• Book Club: Sunset Silent Readers, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 4-6 p.m. Join us for a silent reading session, followed by a group discussion. Bring any book, fiction or non-fiction, and share your thoughts with us. Registration is recommended: 415-355-2808.

GROWING IN HEALTHY COMMUNICATION

San Francisco Mandarin Baptist Church will host a free seminar entitled "Growing in Healthy Communication" conducted by our pastor Rev. Dr. Wing Lem, who is also a certified Christian counselor. Sunday, Oct. 27, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at 2332 Judah St. Register at: SFMBC seminar: Growing in Healthy Communicationeventbrite.com/e/growing-in-healthy-communication.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy October birthday to Celeste Aquino, David Barker, Zarek Bastani, Lynne Billig, Estella Bond, Diane Callman, Connie Chan, Hannah Chon, Megan Cresci, Carlos Joey Dardon, J9 Downing, MJSD, Logan Gardner, David Gillies, Frank Gogol, Vivienne-Rain Hauso, Kathy Hom, Tam Huynh, Laura Johnson-Bickford, Matt Kauffman, Sidney Keith, Dylan King, Maya Klein, Sue Kozakiewicz, Becky Lee, Brittney Lee, Matthew Leigh, Helen Liu, Kris Lue, Lynda Nguyen, Michelle Nicoletti, Kyle O'Rourke, Melissa Judith Poon, Anthony William Rowland, Macy Saiz, Charlotte Schmidlapp, Michelle Schulz, Andy Sponring, Lucia Maria Sullivan, John James Tracy, Peter Tracy, Sr., Jeffrey Trotter, Chelsea Tsang, Kari Vides, Gale Ward, Athena Weber, Sophia West, Maxwell Zachary White, Madison Wong, Ruby Yep, Simone Yuen and Barbara Zartun. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Join us for a Holiday Bazaar on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 1750 29th Ave. Needlework, jewelry, baked goods, collectibles, hand-made items and silent auction. Hearty lunch available for $17.00, served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

"HOME SWEET HOME"

Join us for the third episode of "The Backyard Plague," a community-driven art event showcasing diverse forms of expression, including film, spoken word, music, sculpture, textile, performance and painting. This one-day, all-day show is themed around the concept of "home" – what it means, where it is and how it feels for different people. This episode, called "Home Sweet Home," will spotlight the voices of migrant creators – new, first and second-generation – exploring their unique perspectives on belonging, identity and the meaning of home. Oct. 13, 2-9 p.m., 1032 Irving St. For more information, call 669-226-4440 or visit Instagram @thebackyardplague.

INTRODUCING "PET PIX"

We will be featuring photos of your beloved pets each month. Send a jpeg with a brief caption to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com by the 22nd of the month.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The San Francisco Long-Term Care Ombudsman program offers free, confidential support to address issues raised by residents in long-term care facilities and free training opportunities for those interested in becoming volunteer ombudsmen. For details on training or accessing support, call 415-751-9788 or email ombudsman@felton.org.

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Prime Inner Richmond location. Approx. 300 SF, Move-in condition! For more info, contact Erston Pearcy at 415-625-0000, x2120 or erston@housingguild.com (DRE #03198768).

OMBUDSMAN CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Become a certified Ombudsman and support long-term care residents. Our October training includes 36 hours of essential instruction to equip you with the skills to advocate for residents' rights and address care-related issues. Training starts Oct. 23, noon to 4 p.m. Additional dates to follow. For details or to register, call 415-751-9788 or email ombudsman@felton.org. Visit our web page to learn more about our program: felton.org/ombudsman. Address: 6221 Geary Blvd, 2nd floor conference room.

OUTER SUNSET FARMERS MARKET AND MERCANTILE

Join us every Sunday at the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile where you can find fresh produce from local farmers and ranchers, enjoy delicious dishes from Outer Sunset eateries and discover unique finds from local makers and artisans. Every Sunday, find a revolving series of live performers, engaging activities and exhibitions at the ArtShip and fun zone! Our farmers market accepts WIC, EBT and Market Match. 37th Avenue at Ortega Street, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Go to sunsetmercantilesf.com or call 415-465-2475 for more details.

"PHOTOS OF THE MONTH"\ ONLINE GALLERY

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs on the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

PIANO LESSONS

With my unique teaching method, I will show you how to find every chord on the keyboard – major, minor, sharp and flat – in the first lesson. Then I'll show you how to start playing songs at your very first lesson. No need to be able to read music. Call Michael at 415-706-6428 to learn more.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Monday, Oct. 7, 8-9 a.m., Outer Sunset Morning Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/604552/.
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 4-5 p.m., Inner Sunset Happy Hour Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/581814/.
Sunday, Oct. 13, 1–3 p.m., Great Highway Park Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/448138/.
Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.–noon, Avenues To Kezar Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/609976/.
Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.–noon, Inner Sunset Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/464169/.

SECONDHAND SATURDAYS

Come check out Secondhand Saturdays and celebrate all things vintage, antique and secondhand. Presented by Sunset Mercantile every third Saturday of the month at Ortega Street and 37th Avenue, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shop local from more than 50 vintage vendors, makers and artisans that are some of the Bay Area's best. Enjoy live music, family-friendly activities, food trucks, rotating monthly features and more! Visit sunsetmercantilesf.com/secondhand/ for more information.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the Sunset Beacon readers who generously donated or signed up for our Patreon campaign. Your contribution helps keep us financially healthy. If you donated and would like some of our Sunset Beacon branded products (tote bag, pens, coffee mug, hat or shirt), please send an email to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. We would also like to share just your name in the paper to thank you. Please let us know if that is OK. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign or send send a check to: Sunset Beacon, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116. Thank you!

TRUMPET FOR SALE

Bach Strad trumpet for sale, and cash paid for jazz records. Call 415-665-1792.

WINE ON THE WESTSIDE

Join us for Wine on the Westside 2024, Oct. 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m at the Park Chalet. In recognition of 44 years serving youth, families, and seniors on the west side of San Francisco, we

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Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Register to Vote

Election Day is just weeks away – Tuesday, Nov. 5. We will be electing a president and leaders at both the state and local levels. We will also be deciding on issues that impact us, such as housing, children's programs, climate change and more. Be sure your voice is heard and vote.

Counties will begin to send out vote-by-mail ballots the week of Oct. 7 to all Californians who are registered to vote. In order to receive a ballot in the mail, you must register to vote by Oct. 21.

After voting, your ballot must postmarked on or before Election Day. You can also bring it to a voting center or any of the 37 official drop boxes through 8 p.m., Nov. 7. Locations can be found at VoterGuide.SFElections.org, under the "General Information" tab.

Since 2020, California voters have been able to track their ballot. Just go to WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to make sure it gets to its destination.

If you have not registered to vote, there are three ways to do so:

• Online: Visit RegisterToVote.ca.gov.

• Paper Application: Forms are available at U.S. Post Offices and your local public libraries. Once filled out, just mail it in.

• In-Person: Drop by San Francisco's Election Department in City Hall to fill out a voter registration form.

Note that it takes two to three days to process your registration.

If you're not sure whether you're registered to vote, or which address you have on file, you can check your voter status with the secretary of state's website at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov. Among the things you can look up:

• Whether or not you are registered to vote.

• Where you are registered to vote.

• Your political party preference.

• Your language preference for election materials.

After the Oct. 21 deadline, you must register to vote in person. Just visit San Francisco's City Hall Voting Center or a local polling place and tell a poll worker that you want to register to vote. You'll then be able to cast a provisional ballot up until 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you meet the requirements to be a voter, then your ballot will count.

If you want to do more this election and can speak another language, perhaps you can serve as a poll worker. San Francisco experienced a shortage of bilingual poll workers the last election, and city administrators don't want the same to happen this time around. It's only one day, working 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 5. Duties include completing training, setting up/breaking down the voting site on Election Day, helping voters who have questions and protecting election integrity. There is a $225-$295 stipend available. To learn more, visit SF.gov/serve-poll-worker.

Help spread the word to your friends and family about the election and the upcoming voter deadlines. Then be sure to start your research early on each candidate and measure. The more people we can get to participate, the better for our democracy.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Flower Piano Returns, a Big Draw to Golden Gate Park's Botanical Garden

By George Brown V

Music emanated from among the majestic trees and floated across the lush green lawns, inviting visitors to step into the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park.

Despite the cloudy weather, pianos lit up nature on display, making the pathways lined with plants and flowers even more alive than ever. Crowds gathered around each of the dozen pianos stationed all over the garden, entranced by the musicians whose fingers danced on the keys.

Established in 2014, Flower Piano was held again Sept. 13-22, its ninth annual presence, with only a one-year gap in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event originated from the minds of Sunset Piano founders, Dean Mermell and Mauro Ffortissimo, who suggested this novel idea ten years ago.

"We were already placing pianos in nontraditional settings," Mermell said. "Rec. and Park introduced us to the folks at the Botanical Garden, who wanted to do something special for their 75th anniversary. We came up with the idea of Flower Piano on the spot and pitched it to their director, Sue Ann Schiff. To our surprise, she liked the idea, and we did it for the first time that summer."

Mermell and Ffortissimo carefully selected where to place the pianos throughout the garden. Each picturesque location seemed ideal, with grand pianos nestled under the canopy of a stately tree or situated on a natural stage under a pergola. Headlining musicians were scheduled to showcase their talent throughout the 10-day event, while pianists of all ages and skill levels are free to step up and dazzle audiences with their musical expertise.

Flower Piano boasts about 70,000 visitors every year, sometimes receiving up to 15,000 guests in a day, according to Jenn Tapler, the senior program manager at the Gardens of Golden Gate Park. Some also purchase additional tickets to the Flower Piano Lounge in the Celebration Garden, where they listened to performances while relaxing in comfortable couches and enjoying food and drinks.

Spectator Ricky Ristau arrived early on the morning of Sept. 15 to claim a spot with a perfect view of the grand piano in the Zellerbach Garden in celebration of his daughter's birthday. Ristau and his daughter Jenny first discovered Flower Piano through Instagram.

"I own a piano and I wish I could play it," Ristau said. "Flower Piano will be my inspiration to learn."

Whether listening to the romantic melodies of Rachmaninoff or the recognizable theme song from Jurassic Park, crowds of onlookers smiled as they listened, many swaying to the music. Not only is the event a source of tranquility, but it also connects people.

"I like that this is an open community," Jenny said, reflecting on the memorable birthday experience. "People of

Continued on page 9

Ricky and Jenny Ristau with family and friends enjoy a picnic at Flower Piano in September. *Photos by George Brown V.*

Daniel Chen plays at the Moon Viewing Garden in Golden Gate Park's Botanical Garden during the Flower Piano event.

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Police Blotter

Outstanding Warrant: 46th Avenue and Judah Street, Aug. 31, 9:41 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of a suspect playing loud music.

Officers located the suspect at the corner with an open container of alcohol and a five-foot-tall speaker.

The officer investigated the incident and later arrested the suspect for an outstanding warrant.

Robbery: 1500 Block of 11th Avenue, Sept. 3, 1:54 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a robbery with force.

The victim, a USPS mail carrier told the officers that three suspects approached him and used force to take his keys and mailbag.

The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle driven by a fourth suspect.

Burglary: 1800 Block of Taraval Street, Sept. 3, 3:18 a.m.

A sergeant was patrolling the area where a hardware store was a victim of fire and numerous burglaries.

As the sergeant pulled up to the location, he observed a suspect moving items from the building into a vehicle.

The suspect was detained.

Additional units arrived to assist.

A search of the building revealed another suspect inside.

After further investigation, the suspects were arrested.

Robbery: 20th Avenue and Taraval Street, Sept. 6, 12:21 p.m.

The victim told responding officers she was in her vehicle when a vehicle stopped next to her. A suspect approached her vehicle and pointed a firearm at her and demanded her property.

The victim gave the suspect her property. The suspect then entered a vehicle driven by a second suspect and they fled the scene.

Outstanding Warrant: Judah Street and 44th Avenue, Sept. 12, 10:31 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a suspect punching vehicles.

Officers located the suspect and detained him.

A computer check revealed two warrants for his arrest.

Officers determined there was no damage to the vehicles.

The suspect was arrested for the warrant.

Burglary, Resisting Arrest: 1500 Block of Sloat Boulevard, Sept. 12, 1:20 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of a burglary.

Dispatch advised officers the suspect had broken the window and left on a bicycle with stolen merchandise.

Officers arrived and observed a suspect leaving the scene. The suspect attempted to flee, but the officers were able to detain him.

After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Battery: 1200 Block of Ninth Avenue, Sept. 23, 6:11 p.m.

The victim, a manager of a bar, told officers the suspect approached her and demanded to know why he was banned from the bar. The victim started filming the incident.

The suspect attempted to grab the cell phone. The victim told officers the suspect was punched and kicked when they tried to grab the cell phone.

Driving While Intoxicated: 24th Avenue and Kirkham Street, Sept. 23, 10:54 p.m.

The officer was on patrol when he saw a vehicle stopped at a stoplight, not moving.

The office contacted the driver. The driver had obvious signs of being intoxicated. The officer administered tests to the driver which he failed.

The driver was arrested.

Battery: Pacheco Street and 31st Avenue, Sept. 27, 5:19 p.m.

The victim told officers he saw a vehicle parked in front of his home with its door open.

The victim looked inside to make sure the vehicle had not been burglarized. The victim did not see anything, so he started walking away.

The suspect approached the victim and started hitting him.

After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Flower Piano Returns

Continued from page 8

all ages can come. Being part of this with the people I'm with is life changing."

The pianos in the Botanical Garden are scattered like hidden treasures. One notable scene is a platform raised above a vibrant green pond overgrown with algae. Passersby can't help but stop to watch intently from the banks across the water.

Daniel Chen, who began playing when he was just five years old, patiently waited for his turn to perform at this particular site. He took the audience on a journey with his moving rendition of "Nocturne in E minor" by Frédéric Chopin under the umbrella of a Coriaria tree, whose branches seem to extend outward to embrace this outdoor concert.

"I like the sense of community here," Chen said. "Everyone takes turns and acts politely. I'm glad my wife found a flyer for Flower Piano. It's a great way to play for fun."

The beauty of Flower Piano is that the stage is open to everyone. Twelve-year-old Beata Ang-Dutta proudly plays "Mozzie" by Elissa Milne on a grand piano featured in front of magnificent trees overlooking the Waterfowl Pond. Ang-Dutta has attended Flower Piano five times in the past.

"I like Flower Piano because it allows people to share their music," Ang-Dutta said.

Pianists come from far and wide to participate in Flower Piano, including Kris Nicholson, who traveled all the way from Florida. Nicholson began playing the piano at three years old and can play by ear. As he transitioned from "What a Wonderful World" by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss into "Smile" by Charlie Chaplin in a unique mashup, Nicholson illuminated the faces of his audience seated on stone benches in a clearing in the California Native Garden, offering him and his piano an intimate embrace.

"I enjoy the friendliness and togetherness; Flower Piano is all about music and love," Nicholson remarked.

Learn more at gggp.org/flowerpiano/.

Music lovers listen to Kris Nicholson.

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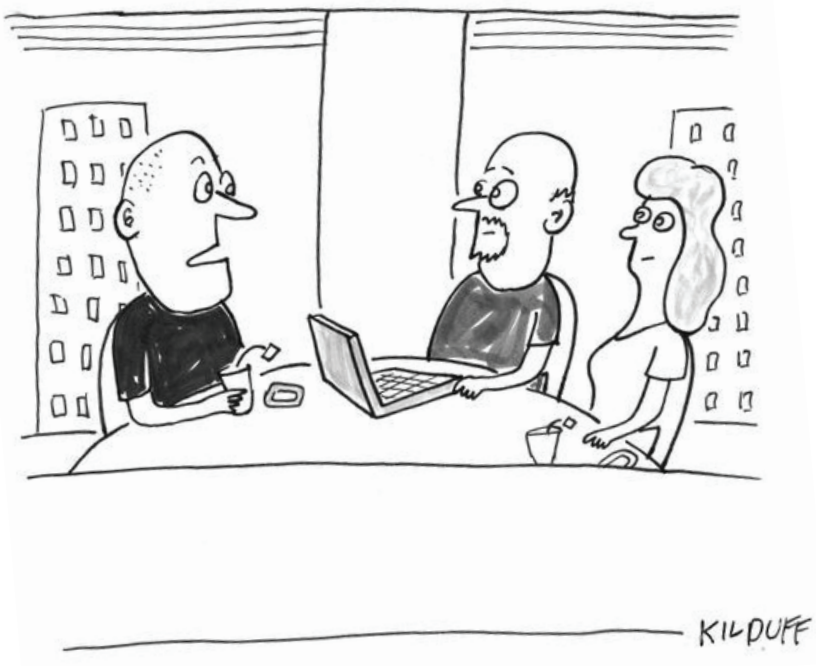
Kilduff's Korner By Paul Kilduff



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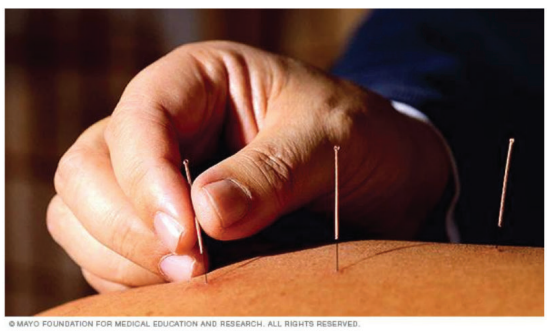

Refreshments will be provided.

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www.kundewellness.org

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City Hall

Supervisor Joel Engardio

Facts About Prop. K

Creating a park on a section of the Upper Great Highway will be good for the environment, give people of all ages better access to the coast and bring new customers to our small businesses. We are doing this for our families, our kids and grandkids. This is for the future.

We can have all this benefit while helping car drivers get where they need to go – and create joy for generations to come.

Prop. K does not close the entire Great Highway

The northern section of the Great Highway that actually connects the Sunset and Richmond neighborhoods will remain open to cars 24/7. You will always be able to drive from the Outer Richmond to the Cliff House, the Beach Chalet, the 400-spot parking lot at Ocean Beach and to Lincoln Way to access the Sunset. You will always be able to go around Golden Gate Park. This is how drivers get between the Sunset and Richmond now, and that will not change.

Prop. K will not force all drivers onto Chain of Lakes and 19th Avenue. Drivers will always be able to go around the park from the Outer Richmond to Lincoln Way. Traffic flow improvements on Lincoln (replacing stop signs with traffic lights) will make it easier to get everywhere you want to go.

Sunset Boulevard has three lanes of traffic in each direction, and it has capacity. Traffic volume on Sunset Boulevard is down 30% from before the pandemic. We've already made traffic flow improvements by moving the bus stops to the other side of the intersections, allowing for cars to make right turns without being blocked by a loading bus.

The southern section of the Great Highway is closing whether Prop. K wins or loses

The section south of Sloat Boulevard is falling into the ocean because of extreme coastal erosion. The California Coastal Commission is forcing the City to remove this section of road. The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to close it. There is nothing we can do about the closure of the southern section. We will never be able to use the Great Highway as a direct connection to Daly City. Prop. K asks what we should do with the middle section of the Upper Great Highway now that it has lost its greatest utility.

Prop. K only closes a section of the Great Highway without on/off ramps for cars.

The middle section of the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat has never had any on/off ramps for cars to access the Sunset. This is the only section that Prop. K considers closing.

This section of the Great Highway bypasses all the businesses and schools in the Sunset. Once passing Lincoln,

Continued on page 11

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Other Avenues

Continued from page 1

workers and the loyal community have always helped OA survive, and now thrive, for the past 50 years.

So how did a small, idealistic business survive while almost a dozen of its peer food co-ops of the '70s close? The manyfold answer can be summed up here: Other Avenues has always attracted a dedicated, hard-working staff that believes in democratic governance and sustainable, organic products; and The Outer Sunset and other patrons support Other Avenues' mission by shopping there regularly and helping the business with its growth and expansion.

The community support was clearly evident when the co-op purchased its building in 2008. With generous loans given by shoppers and other Bay Area cooperatives, OA was able to secure its location during the difficult time of the mortgage industry meltdown. Owning the building has been one of Other Avenues's best assets. In later years, the community raised more than $45,000 to install solar panels on the building's roof to advance its green business plan.

(L-R) Chris Julian, Janna Velásquez, Luke Larson, Ryan Corning and Maria Delgado with samples of some of Other Avenues' organic produce. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

In return, the co-op has always given back generously to the community by providing access to the most nourishing food available in California, while also providing the best customer service. Other Avenues knows that healthy, sustainable living comes at a cost, so to remain accessible, many discounts are offered to community members including to seniors, local neighborhood workers, teachers and EBT card holders.

Also, the co-op offers community events such as bike rides, lectures, cooking classes and food demonstrations. This dedication is why so many organizations, including the mayor's office, recognize Other Avenues, even awarding OA a Legacy Business Award in 2018.

To celebrate it thriving success and longevity, OA is planning an all-day outdoor celebration on Saturday, Oct. 19 from noon to 7 p.m. filled with food, games, live music and fun!

Two amazing organizations helping with Other Avenues' 50th Anniversary Celebration are the Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NOBAWC) and the Friends of the Great Highway Park. both aligned with OA's goals as a cooperative. This year, NOBAWC will celebrate its 30th anniversary of its work providing resources for the San Francisco Bay Area's people who want to connect to create and sustain cooperatives. Friends of the Great Highway Park has been a serious positive vehicle of builing community by organizing events for folks to gather and celebrate on a car-free Ocean Beach Park.

Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff was worker/owner at Other Avenues for over 35 years and has written three cookbooks and a book on the history of SF Bay Area's Food Cooperatives titled "Other Avenues are Possible." Shanta contributes a recipes once a month on RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Joel Engardio

Continued from page 10

southbound drivers have to go all the way to Sloat and then backtrack on local roads to access points within the Sunset. Or northbound drivers at Sloat have to go all the way to Lincoln and backtrack on local roads to get into the Sunset.

We are working to make Lincoln Way and Sunset Boulevard more efficient for traffic flow since those are the roads that actually bring people into the Sunset.

With the Great Highway already scheduled to close south of Sloat, there will be a forced left turn at Sloat. Prop. K will have drivers turn left at Lincoln instead and use Sunset Boulevard for points south. Traffic flow improvements on Lincoln and Sunset Boulevard will make these the preferred routes and keep drivers from cutting through neighborhood streets.

Prop. K does not allow for new development along the beach.

Prop. K only addresses a section of the Great Highway designated as park land. San Francisco's constitution – the city charter – prohibits building housing on park land. Our precious coast will be protected from development.

Prop. K asks a simple question.

Prop. K only asks voters: Do people want the middle section of the Upper Great Highway to remain a road or become a park? We first need to know the will of the people before we create a plan for a park. This is why Prop. K does not include a plan for the park.

If the people say "yes" to a park, then we can begin the long public process of park planning. Meanwhile, we know that the simple weekend road closure has become San Francisco's third-most-visited park. Without creating any park amenities, there already is a huge demand to experience the coast in a unique way.

This is on the ballot because everyone should have a say about what to do with their coast. Voting is the most open, transparent, and democratic way to learn the will of the people. The coast belongs to all San Franciscans and everyone should have a say.

If Prop. K passes, the northern section of the Great Highway that connects the Sunset and Richmond neighborhoods will always remain open to cars 24/7.

The middle section between Lincoln and Sloat will remain open while permits are obtained for its closure and traffic improvements are made.

We must plan for better traffic flow because the southern section of the Great Highway south of Sloat will close no matter what happens with Prop. K.

Learn more about what Prop. K does and doesn't do at engardio.com/blog/great-highway-future.

Joel Engardio is the District 4 representative on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He can be reached at engardio.com/contact.

Quentin L. Kopp

Continued from page 6

property taxes. Vote "no" on Prop. 5.

Prop. 6 amends Article I, Section 6 of our state constitution which prohibits involuntary servitude except for crime. Prop. 6 prohibits it as a punishment for crime and as punishment for inmates who refuse to work but doesn't ban prisons from granting credits to inmates who do work of their own free will. I suppose it justifies a "yes" vote.

Prop 32 increases California's minimum wage in 2025. For businesses with 26 or more employees the minimum increases from $16 per hour to $17. Employers with 25 or fewer employees would have a $17 per hour minimum. Inflation adjustments now in effect are suspended until 2027. I'll vote "yes." The unions favor it – restaurant owners, grocers and the California Chamber of Commerce urge rejection.

Proposition 33 emanates from rent control lovers. It repeals the 1995 law (for which I voted as the only Independent in the legislature and was authored by two Democrats!) which bars local rent control regarding single-family homes, housing built after Feb. 1, 1995, and on new rentals. I urge rejection of Prop. 33 if you want more rentals built in the Golden State.

Proposition 34 deserves passage. Health care businesses must be licensed and Prop. 34 applies to (1) participants in the federal drug discount program, (2) licensees operating as a health plan, pharmacy, clinic or specified contracts with Medi-Cal or Medicare, and a 10-year period spending more than $100 million on matters besides direct patient care and currently on previously owned and operated multifamily housing units and suffered at least 500 violations of law with a "high" severity level. AIDS and homosexual organizations oppose Prop 34. Adherents include a "gay" Assembly member who's in the state legislature's LGBT Caucus and the CEO of The ALS Association. I'll vote "yes."

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

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Special Musical Program at the Legion of Honor Presents Latine Composers

By Megan Robertson

Bundled up from dealing with the fog and cold of a brisk September morning, on Sept. 14, museum goers crowded inside the galleries of the Legion of Honor to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month with a "Celebration of Bay Area Latine Composers."

Open to the public as part of the museum's Free Saturdays program, Dominican-American mezzo-soprano vocalist Melisa Bonetti Luna performed four Spanish-language pieces from contemporary Bay Area Latine composers.

"I always program new works by Latin composers everywhere that I go. I said, 'Why don't we feature all contemporary Latine works, but let's make it local composers,'" Bonetti Luna said.

In collaboration with Ópera Cultura, a San Jose-based opera company focusing on Latine performance, Bonetti Luna – who is also a resident at the San Jose Opera – landed on three composers whose work she would perform: Héctor Armienta, Carla Lucero and Nicolás Lell Benavides.

Ópera Cultura Executive Director Sandra Raquel Bengochea was the emcee of the event.

"It's a fantastic kickoff to Hispanic Latin American Heritage Month," she said. "It's really wonderful to see our stories."

The performance not only marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, but also Ópera Cultura's first event in San Francisco.

"As a Latina, it's important to me to hear Latine compositions in this high kind of level," Bonetti Luna said. "This is a beautiful fine arts museum, and all of their work belongs here, next to this beautiful art. They're worthy of beautiful spaces. They're worthy of being heard."

Maria Egoavil, manager of public programs at Legion of Honor and de Young museums, said this is what their programming is all about – exposing visitors to different kinds of art and bringing in residents who may not be frequent museum goers.

"A lot of our focus on Free Saturdays is really strengthening our ties with our local communities, making sure people know that the museums are accessible and really a representation of all the Bay Area has to offer," Egoavil said.

As a former Outer Richmond District resident, Egoavil finds innovative programming important in bringing neighborhood residents into the museum.

"Sometimes museums can feel a little bit distant, but Free Saturdays, I think, is really about opening those channels of accessibility," Egoavil said. "Perhaps the collections don't speak to you, but perhaps the program does.

"We're doing a lot of Latin Heritage programming, but we also want to support local organizations. We want to use our space to uplift what they're doing in the community."

Some audience members came specifically for the performance, while others, like Nina Shulman, arrived at the museum for the artwork and were pleasantly surprised by the program.

"That was a bonus," Shulman said after the program. "She has a very impressive voice."

The audience seemed to be enthralled by Bonetti Luna, who was accompanied by San Francisco pianist Marika Yasuda. Multiple attendees could be seen wiping tears away as Bonetti Luna hauntingly sang her final song, "Quien te ayuda," (who helps you) from composer Carla Lucero's Spanish-opera "Las Tres Mujeres de Jerusalén," (the Three Women of Jerusalem). Based on the passion of Christ, Bonetti Luna performed a scene in which Mary sees her son, Jesus, upon the cross.

Dominican-American mezzo-soprano vocalist Melisa Bonetti Luna performed four Spanish-language pieces from contemporary Bay Area Latine composers at a recent performance at the Legion of Honor.

Bonetti Luna called out into the audience, "Who helps you," seemingly imploring for someone, anyone, to come to her aid. The powerful composition comes from Carla Lucero, an internationally renowned composer, who has had her operas commissioned and performed by the L.A. Opera, Opera Paralléle and the Hawai'i Opera Theatre. Lucero found it "really amazing to see" Bonetti Luna's performance.

"My work is usually really controversial," Lucero said. "In fact, even this piece is controversial…a feminist lens on the passion."

Events like this speak to the strength and daringness of the artistic community in San Francisco, Lucero said.

"This is my operatic home," she said. "Living in the Bay Area for over 20 years now, I feel like it still does influence me. My joy is subversive culture and opera."

For Egoavil, programming events like this shows the strength and diversity of that community.

"When you think about opera music, you might not think about like Latin people or like Latinx people here working," she said. "Melissa is bringing visibility to a lot of Hispanic composers. I think that is a big thing."

"They say that, you know, opera is sort of a dying art," Raquel Bengochea said. "It's not, because of things like this."

The Legion of Honor celebrates 100 years in the Richmond District on Nov. 9, and will be celebrating with a day of free activities for the community. Composers Carla Lucero and Héctor Armienta will have new works premiering in the Bay Area in 2025.

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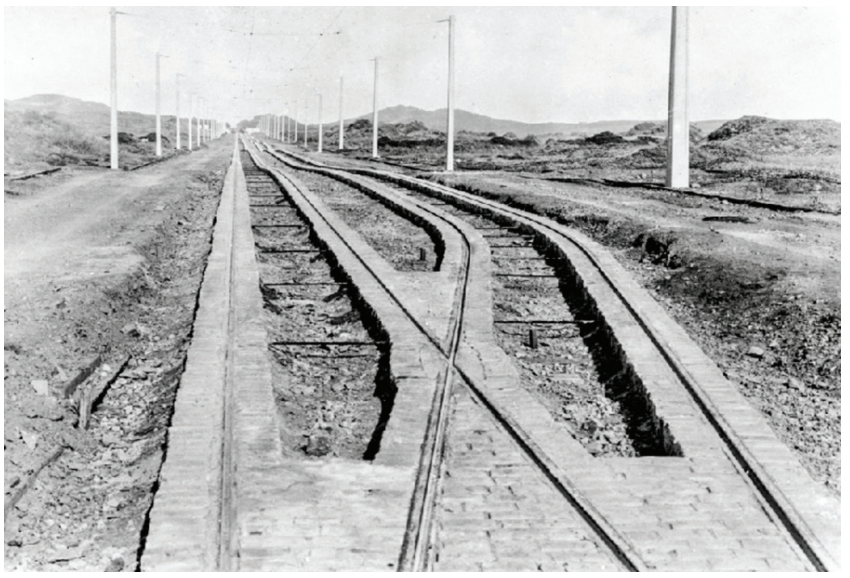
'Then and Now': Western End of Taraval Street



Left: Taraval Street and Great Highway, Sept. 8, 1922. View east on Taraval from Great Highway showing old terminal of L-line street car tracks. These original tracks between 46th Avenue and Great Highway survived until being replaced in 2021. The Belgian blocks lining the rails were preserved and wwreused to line the new tracks. ***Photo and caption courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.*** **Right: The old blocks are clearly visible (and felt when driving over them) at the western end of Taraval.** ***Photo by Michael Durand.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 7

hope you'll join us at a fundraiser benefiting The Richmond Neighborhood Center at The Park Chalet. This event will celebrate the outstanding achievements of the youth the Neighborhood Center serves in 10 public schools, the dedication of its volunteers in enhancing the quality of life for seniors, and the relentless efforts of their staff in strengthening our community and local businesses. Highlights of the evening include music by the Evie Laden Band, a silent auction featuring local restaurants, businesses, exciting sports and entertainment experiences and a brief program showcasing our impactful programs and future growth aspirations. Go to richmondsf.org for details.

Announcements: $1 per word, 20-word minimum. Share birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or submit free community events at no charge. FREE: There is no charge for occasional announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send an-

Honoring Resident Rights Month: Advocates Who Care

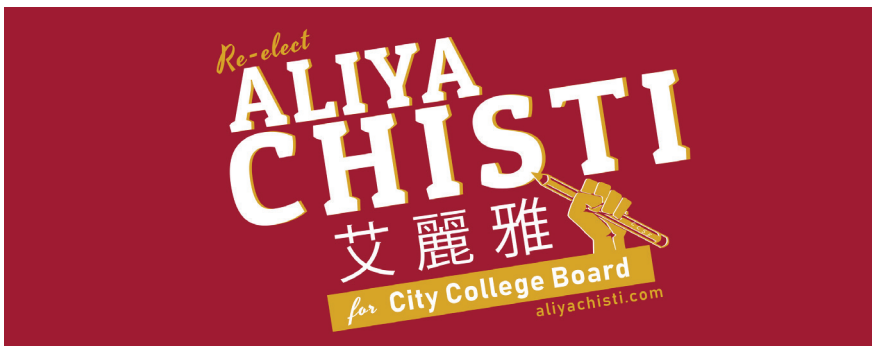
Every morning when Lorraine wakes up, she watches sunlight stream across her floor; her days in the nursing home blending together. Life in long-term care can be predictable, until an ombudsman, a resident rights advocate, walks in.

Lorraine and all long-term care residents rely on ombudsmen, trained volunteers and staff that ensure resident rights aren't overlooked. These rights – dignity, respect, and the freedom to make personal choices – may seem small, but they can profoundly impact a resident's quality of life.

October marks Residents' Rights Month. This is a reminder that long-term care residents deserve to be heard. Ombudsmen ask the questions no one else does: "Are you happy with your care?" "Do you feel heard?" "Is there anything you need that you're not getting? "Are you safe, are you comfortable?"

For Lorraine, it was the ombudsman who encouraged her to voice concerns at the resident council meeting, a step she hadn't felt confident taking alone. Ombudsmen play a crucial role in helping residents like Lorraine retain a sense of control over their lives. As we recognize Residents' Rights Month, we remind every resident: We see you. We hear you. You matter.

Have concerns about your care? Call the San Francisco Long-Term Care Ombudsman: (415) 751-9788 or ombudsman@felton.org.



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Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.

Your friends at the Sunset Beacon wish you a fun and safe Halloween. Booooo!

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I read Quentin Kopp's voting recommendations for the Nov. 5 election with dismay.

Mr. Kopp believes that Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are equally bad and, therefore, he recommends a write-in candidate: himself. Harris's sin is that she allegedly "cheated" in the 2003 election for San Francisco District Attorney.

Mr. Kopp fails to mention that during Mr. Trump's 2016 campaign he paid Stormy Daniels to keep quiet about their affair so that he would not lose votes, a crime for which a jury recently convicted Mr. Trump of 34 felonies. A jury also found Mr. Trump civilly liable for sexually assaulting E. Jean Carroll. In addition, his rhetoric about the 2020 election culminated in a riot at the Capitol during which one person was shot and killed by the police and another (a police officer) died several days later in the hospital as the result of a heart attack on the day of the riot. Further, several economists have said that Mr. Trump's tariffs would be inflationary and could cause a recession, which is the last thing that we need after the economic damage inflicted on the country by the COVID pandemic.

Ms. Harris may not be perfect, but she is far and away the "lesser of two evils" in this election.

Scott Kiddy

Editor:

We are voting Yes on K to transform an unreliable roadway into an unparalleled park

Long-time Outer Sunset resident Eddy Rubin writes about Ocean Beach in his soon-to-be-published book:

"Seven million people live in the San Francisco Bay Area, one of North America's most densely populated regions. But Ocean Beach feels apart, always turning away from the metropolis and toward the sea. Above all, OB, as we call it, is wildness."

Ocean Beach is a unique place. That is especially true for westside residents, for whom the place where our City meets the wildness of the Pacific Ocean stirs a sense of neighborhood pride. This November, Proposition K offers us a chance to transform this piece of our coast into a park that will help preserve Ocean Beach and allow more people to enjoy the wildness that is OB.

As drivers, we know that the Great Highway from Lincoln to Sloat is losing most of its utility as a roadway. Coastal erosion is permanently closing the southern end of the road; the law closing that section unanimously passed at the Board of Supervisors in April. This means the Upper Great Highway will no longer be a direct link in and out of the City – a use case that accounts for almost 80% of trips on the road. Further, the section that Prop. K would turn into a park – from Lincoln to Sloat – closes 32-65 weekdays each year due to sand buildup, forcing drivers to take frequent, unexpected inland detours.

However we vote on Prop. K, Mother Nature is bringing big changes to our westside commutes that will require routing inland toward Sunset Boulevard. Prop. K asks us: If we're already turning inland, are we willing to make that turn at Lincoln instead of Sloat in exchange for a new oceanfront park?

The weekend pilot prome-

Continued on page 20

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Candidates Running for

Matt Boschetto

I'm running for Supervisor in District 7 because I care too much about this City to sit on the sidelines while City Hall falls short on the big issues.

As a small business owner, parent, and west side resident, I've seen the challenges our community faces, and I'm ready to bring fresh solutions.

I'm focused on making San Francisco safer and more livable. Like many of you, I've been a victim of crime, and I refuse to accept that this is the new normal. I believe we can fix the City with thoughtful, well-developed policies that hold people accountable and course-correct when necessary.

District 7 has a unique way of life that deserves better representation at City Hall. Our neighborhoods need safer streets, stronger support for small businesses and reliable transportation. I'll work to ensure our concerns are heard and acted upon, and I pledge to be accessible and accountable as your representative.

I'm not a career politician. I'm a pragmatic leader who values results over process. My roots run deep in San Francisco, where my family has lived for generations, and I'm committed to making sure this City remains a vibrant place for families like mine and yours.

I'm asking for your support to protect our west side and help restore the San Francisco we all know and love. Together, we can make a real difference.

Learn more at matt4supervisor.com.

Editor's note: Multiple attempts were made to contact Edward Yee who is listed as a candidate running for supervisor of District 7. The efforts were unsuccesful. Space will be made available in the November issue if Yee wishes to submit a column.

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Stephen Martin-Pinto

Wherever I go door-knocking in District 7, whether it's Merced Extension, West Portal, or Forest Knolls, I hear one common refrain repeatedly: "We need change at City Hall."

From the second I take office, I promise to bring change.

I am a firefighter, a Marine Corps veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, and ordinary citizen who still believes in San Francisco and is remaining here to help fix the City I love and that has given me so much.

When my grandparents immigrated here from Ecuador in 1952, they chose San Francisco because it was the place of opportunity. My grandfather set up a private family medicine practice in the Mission District. He was one of the first Spanish-speaking doctors and served the community for more than 40 years. He passed away in 2008, but his former patients recognize the Pinto name and come up to me even today.

This sense of community still exists. This is why I've always claimed that San Francisco is the biggest small town in the country; everyone seems to be linked by no more than a few degrees of separation. This is unique among American cities. But our way of life has declined for years, and it has reached a boiling point. This is why I am running.

I'm not a City Hall insider, nor is this a career move. I'm running because our City has a leadership void that I believe I can fill. I come from the community and I'm for the community. I have held various leadership positions in the district as president of Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, positions on the board of West of Twin Peaks Central Council and as a Veteran Affairs commissioner. It's time for government to address the most important concerns of San Franciscans.

Complete shutdown of the open-air drug markets. This is objectively our most urgent crisis today. I have personally helped administer Narcan to dozens and dozens of people. They normally survive but sometimes they don't. Much of this happens downtown, sometimes in full view of City Hall, sometimes with the dealer nearby. No other candidate has the close personal perspective that I do. I will have a zero-tolerance policy for open-air drug dealing and will accept nothing less.

Restore public safety. Every candidate nowadays intends to fully staff SFPD, even the ones who called for its defunding in 2020, like my incumbent opponent. But I am the only candidate who also wants to rebuild the Hall of Justice, restore full staffing of the Sheriff's Department, and reform the police commission. Public safety requires every link in the chain to be intact, from police to the district attorney to the court systems.

Eliminate corruption. Our government is bureaucratic and immense in size. I will immediately call for an audit of all departments and commissions and eliminate and consolidate unnecessary and redundant positions. I will call for all contracts to be centralized and focused into one office for better accountability. I will call for performance-based metrics and zero-based budgeting to be written into every contract for increased transparency.

Reduce Homelessness. An entire industry exists which is not interested in solving homelessness, but rather perpetuating it. We have a litany of nonprofits that, as far as anyone knows, has no clear mission and no expectation of results. I will advocate for shelter space while not tolerating anti-social behavior on our streets.

Sensible housing. We can intelligently provide for growth without destroying our single-family-home neighborhoods.

Schools. As a Lowell High school graduate, public education is very important to me. I will not play politics with our kids' education. I support magnet schools and early advanced educational opportunities.

These aren't outrageous demands, but they clearly are not in the interests of our government. As supervisor, your concerns are my concerns. Let me prove to you that the city that used to know how still knows how! Please support my campaign for common sense politics!

Learn more at stephenmartinpinto.com.

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r Supervisor in District 7

Myrna Melgar

Over the past four years, I have prioritized the very diverse needs of the west side and delivered on safety, support for small businesses, housing, transportation and support for families with children and seniors.

I am proud of my legislative record, the robust services my office has provided to my constituents and the millions of dollars we have been able to direct to the west side to make our neighborhoods better. I am proud that, despite the escalating negativity in our public discourse, I have represented us well and have been a civil and respectful bridge builder. If re-elected, voters can be assured that I will continue to represent them in the same way, while continuing to deliver progress and practical results.

Thousands of neighbors have participated in making their westside neighborhoods better and safer through our participatory budgeting program, which has shaped millions in city investments in beautiful public spaces and safety improvements. We created and improved Lakeside Landing, turning an ugly underused parking lot into a beautiful community space that has transformed the commercial corridor. We have improved safety all over the district – crosswalks, lights, stop signs and much more.

I cut the bureaucracy for little libraries, benches, murals, and small and large improvements made with love by volunteer neighbors. We supported merchants to take advantage of the new shared spaces (parklets) program. I led safety improvements to our Muni infrastructure, securing funding and getting implementation of improvements to the L-Taraval and K-Ingleside lines, new bicycle lanes and pedestrian safety improvements throughout the district.

Seniors can be assured that the safety net we have had in this City for more than 150 years will be there for them, as we saved Laguna Honda Hospital, which is now once again certified and taking patients. I implemented ambassador programs on West Portal, Irving Street and Ocean Avenue to support safety for shoppers and merchants and created and funded a successful citywide graffiti abatement program.

We continue to struggle with homelessness and a dire housing shortage in San Francisco, but under my leadership, we have made it easier for westside homeowners to build in-law units, and we have entitled thousands of units at Stonestown Mall and the Balboa Reservoir will break ground at the end of this year.

As a mother of three girls who grew up and attended school in District 7, and as a current public school parent, I will continue to work on the City's support for our public schools. I will hold the school district accountable for the funding it receives from the City while continuing to support the district's efforts to grow enrollment and pave the way to success and excellence.

My family came to San Francisco when I was 12 years old, fleeing the Salvadorean civil war. This magical place, a place of freedom and opportunity, gave my family refuge from violence and an opportunity to thrive like it has done for millions of people for our entire history as a City. My story is a very San Francisco story, where a girl like me could grow up to become a mother, set roots on the westside and become the first woman to represent District 7, and the first Latina elected to any district in San Francisco.

My experience, accomplishments and strong legislative track record show that I am by far the most qualified candidate in this race. I represent the interests of our district, and I work hard. I have been a leader on key issues on the Board of Supervisors, such as housing, public safety, government accountability, health care, and services for children and seniors.

If re-elected, I will continue to make progress and deliver results for the west side based on a pragmatic approach focused on getting things done for our community, without drama or political posturing. I would be honored to continue to serve District 7 as your supervisor for the next four years.

Learn more at myrnamelgar.com

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Legacy Businesses

Continued from page 1

So that is likely the motivation for Board President Aaron Peskin, who is running against London Breed for mayor, used that location to announce he is also seeking to expand his legislation throughout the City, already put into place in the Fillmore, to protect legacy businesses there.

"I have to say that as a candidate for mayor, the other candidates express concern about legacy small businesses but are adopting the same massive redevelopment plans that Mayor Breed is pushing, without any of the sensible protections for residents and legacy businesses like Joe's Ice Cream," Peskin said at the Sept. 17 press conference.

Peskin takes some credit for helping to create the legacy business program, giving recognition and support for these well-established businesses.

A plan to protect legacy businesses from real estate speculators was announced at a recent press conference in front of Joe's Ice Cream on Geary Boulevard. Attending the announcement were (L to R) Katherine Howard; former SFPD Commander Richard Corriea; SF Board of Supervisors President and mayoral candidate Aaron Peskin; president of the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants Association David Heller; Joe's Ice Cream owners Alice and Sean Kim and District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

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Since January, at least six properties along a two-block stretch of Fillmore Street have been sold, and the commercial tenants there have been told their leases will not be renewed. Two of those businesses, Ten-Ichi and La Mediterranee, are restaurants which have been there more than 40 years each.

Peskin's resolution, co-sponsored by Chan, would impose interim zoning controls for an 18-month period to require CUAs prior to replacing a "Legacy Business in Neighborhood Commercial Districts and Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts."

The resolution lists almost 50 commercial districts throughout the City that would be affected, including those on Clement Street, Balboa Street, Geary Boulevard, Noriega Street, Irving Street, Judah and Taraval streets.

And on Geary, Joe's Ice Cream has already been feeling the pressure of getting scooped up by wealthier entrepreneurs.

"The building was sold to a developer two years ago, and we were shocked to discover that they already had plans to redevelop it," said Alice Kim, who runs the parlor with her husband Sean. "With the high profits they can make from redeveloping, there's no reason for them to keep a small, family-run business like ours.

"They won't have enough incentives to work with us since, for buildings like ours, they don't have to go through a public hearing, and we won't have any chance to get support from our own community," she said. "Relocating isn't an easy option either. New up-zoning plans will affect other neighborhoods like Clement, California and Irving. Rents in new buildings will be too high, and older buildings will likely face the same issue with redevelopment plans.

"It is sad to see how these new upcoming redevelopment plans could easily push out businesses like ours that have been a part of San Francisco for decades. It's frustrating that our future is so uncertain, and we cannot plan anything not only for ourselves and communities. It will be very appreciated if we can get support from our community."

Christin Evans of the organization Small Business Forward also spoke at the rally, pointing to what happened on Fillmore as a warning sign.

"The latest chapter is this venture-capital-fueled real estate speculation buying up properties blocks at a time speculatively to profit from up-zoning, displacing long-term, beloved neighborhood businesses … emptied out store fronts, leaving spaces vacant with no apparent intention to lease to a new tenant anytime soon," Evans said.

"They have threatened legacy businesses, forcing Ten-Ichi to close and refusing to negotiate in good faith with La Mediterranee in May," she said. "Two successful and beloved community-serving businesses that have served their community for more than 40 years, contributed to the cost of the building maintenance, including the insurance, the taxes, the carrying costs for the property owner. While the landlords were able to cash out when they sell these buildings, the small businesses have been left behind to fend for themselves."

Evans said small business owners are still recovering from the economic fallout of the pandemic, which has put many of them in debt for years to recover and pay back, so they don't need this extra pressure right now.

"Up-zoning does create new housing, but it shouldn't be at the expense of and out of reach for small businesses who have shouldered the rent, contributed to their building's maintenance and paid taxes for years," Evans said.

District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan, who is running for re-election, is also concerned about the possibility of an eviction tsunami sweeping over the west side of the City.

"Going around our neighborhood, we can see a lot of 'for sale' signs," Chan said. "I really am concerned that we're, as a neighborhood and as a district, very similar to what we have seen with the small businesses on Fillmore. We're going to fall into either speculative real estate investment or really just people that have means, like a billionaire, can just buy a block and really significantly change the dynamics of our neighborhoods."

She said that the morning Peskin introduced the proposal for the Fillmore, she contacted him and told him the same was needed for the Richmond.

"We've got to have some mechanism to protect our small businesses," Chan said. "Can you, in your legislation, expand the interim zoning control beyond Fillmore?

"And then, as it turns out, I wasn't the only one. He has co-sponsors from Preston, Walton and Ronen and so that it expanded into neighborhood commercial corridors because it's a direct admission that the businesses on Fillmore are not the only small businesses that are at risk," Chan said.

"It's actually, in fact, everywhere, city-wide, as we're facing the mayor's proposed up-zoning plan," she said.

Peskin's resolution is expected to go before the Board's Land Use and Transportation Committee as early as Sept. 30, before being heard by the full Board of Supervisors for approval.

San Francisco Taxpayers Association

Ballot Measures – Voting Recommendation

Your San Francisco Taxpayers Assoction, after thourough review of all 15 local and 10 state ballot measures, recommends the following taxpayer-affecting ballot measures:

Local Ballot Measures

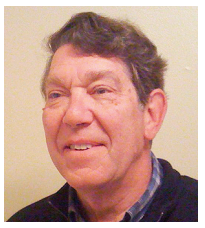
• **Prop. A – NO.** Should we add new taxes of $3 billion, including interest, which will be paid off in fiscal year 2047-2048 by attaching parcel taxes to existing property taxes when we haven't yet paid off prior bonds or used the bond funds as voters intended? There is also a $10 billion state Education Bond to Repair Schools (Proposition 2) on the November 2024 ballot. With declining public school enrollment and questionable spending of past bonds, we should ensure we have a fiscally responsible School Board elected before approving more funds. Additionally, the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee needs to be empowered to fulfill its charge. We need full transparency and accountability and not what was discovered during COVID with the Oversight Committee's promises in the prior-approved Bond Measures non-existent. Voters have always been generous to public schools. ***It's time to vote NO on Prop. A!***
• **Prop B – NO.** Another bond, this one for homeless SF residents, and entitled "Community Health and Medical Facilities, Street Safety, Public Spaces, and Shelter to Reduce Homelessness Bond" will add more property taxes of $3.9 million, plus interest of $3.4 million over 30 years. Vote "no" and compel non-profit recipients to secure tax-deductible charitable contributions, from millionaires and billionaires. ***Vote NO on Prop. B.***
• **Prop C – NO.** This would add another City Hall office for an Inspector-General's Department while two other ballot measures ask voters to reduce such entities. We advise a "no" vote and rejection of this budget increase at least $725,000 annually. ***Vote NO on Prop. C.***
• **Props. D and E – YES, NO.** Proposition D sets a limit of 65 city commissions and saves taxpayers' money. Vote "yes," but reject a Board of Supervisors-spawned Prop. E which establishes a committee to study whether we have too many commissions. ***Vote YES on Prop. D, NO on Prop. E.***
• **Prop. F – NO.** Prop. F exemplifies City Hall's methods for approval to remedying a shortage of police officers. It would allow a cop to draw his or her retirement payments while still acting for five years as a paid police officer. It won't add a single officer, but fosters "double-dipping." ***Vote NO on Prop. F.***
• **Prop. G – NO.** Our controller points out that Proposition G "would have a significant impact on the cost of government in that it would reallocate funds that would otherwise be available, starting with at least $4 million in fiscal year 2026-2027… rising to a maximum of approximately $14 million in fiscal year 2045-2046." The purpose is a so-called Affordable Housing Opportunity Act. Taxpayers are being asked for their money to create yet another "set-aside" in the annual budget until 2047. The controller observes: "This proposed (Charter) amendment is not in compliance with a voter-adopted city policy regarding set-asides." ***Vote NO on Prop. G.***
• **Prop. H – NO.** Prop. H involves fire-fighters. There is no shortage and we like firefighters. Our controller concludes approval of Prop. H "would increase costs to the City" millions of dollars through fiscal year 2040-2041. We recommend rejection. ***Vote NO on Prop. H.***
• **Prop. I – NO.** We support Registered Nurses (RNs) and 9-1-1 operators, but Proposition I would exacerbate shortages of RNs and 911 operators. The latter's retirement law would abrogate the 20-year work requirement for a pension and substitute a mere five-year requirement. RNs would be able to retire three years early! Our controller finds that the annual costs of Prop. I would range from approximately $1.5 million to about $4.4 million per year and increase taxpayers' contributions accordingly. Regarding 9-1-1 operators, cost will increase to $2.3 million starting in 2025-2026 and continuing each year as the number of operators retire early at age 50. ***Vote NO on Prop. I.***
• **Prop. K – NO.**
The Great Highway exists because motor vehicle owners and drivers paid gasoline taxes for decades to pay for it. Park visitors didn't finance it. Bicycle riders never were taxed for it. Neither were walkers. Yet, the Board of Supervisors wants to prevent those financing the Great Highway by building a park and prohibiting all motorists, which renders it unavailable to senior citizens and disabled citizens. No money exists in our City's budget for any park project and Golden Gate Park is just steps away from the Great Highway. Closing the Great Highway to motor vehicles from noon on Friday to 6 a.m. on Monday represents a justifiable compromise which already exists. ***Vote NO on Prop. K.***
• **Prop. L – NO.** In 2022, San Francisco voters approved a hike in sales tax to fund Municipal Railway's related projects. By voting for that measure, we approved over $100 million dollars per year for the next 30 years for Muni. This proposition taxes Lyft, Uber and Waymo, and is just another money-grab for a failed Muni. It hasn't been two years since the 2022 ballot measure, and they are back in our wallets again. The Muni is worse than ever. Fare-dodgers, disruptive passengers, as well as other negative aspects of riding Muni have caused the numbers of passengers to tumble. Empty buses and streetcars abound; yet here we are facing another attempt to pump taxpayer money down this transit rat hole. All city businesses continue to suffer post pandemic. "For Lease" signs on commercial properties abound throughout the City. And now they want struggling businesses and the general public to pay another tax for Muni. ***Vote NO on Prop. L.***
• **Prop. N – NO.**
The SF Taxpayers Association fully supports first responders, Sheriff deputies, paramedics, nurses and 9-1-1 operators. This proposition, however, gives money to them for education and will further strain our deficit-ridden local budget. Additionally, there are many other worthy city employees and other departments excluded from such handouts. Favoring one sector of public employees would not be equal treatment for all. ***Vote NO on Prop. N.***
• **Prop. M – NO.** The mayor and the Board of Supervisors already have the taxpayers of San Francisco paying over one billion dollars per year for homeless related programs via the City budget. Now, they want to increase the taxes on already struggling businesses so they can spend even more on the homeless issue which has been a complete failure with the one billion dollars we have given them every year. Throwing more money at their failed program will only endorse bad management. The taxpayers deserve successful results on the money that continues to be spent yearly on the homeless before additional taxes burden the taxpayers. Send that message, ***Vote NO on Prop. M.***

State Ballot Measures

• **Prop. 2 – NO.** As the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association reminds taxpayers: A bond works like a government credit card (because) paying off that credit card requires borrowers to spend more of your tax dollars. For example, State Proposition 2 authorizes $10 billion in general obligation (G.O.) bonds for repair, construction and improving conditions of K-12 public schools (including charter schools), community colleges and career technical education programs. This taxpayer loan will, however, also cost taxpayers interest of about $500 million each year for 35 years (!) to repay this loan or $1.125 billion in total. Our children will be paying this for decades in a state with a government deficit of $77 million without Prop. 2 and other statewide bonds. ***Vote NO on Prop. 2.***
• **Prop. 4 – NO.** The state is already leveraged and in deficit. Additional borrowing should not be allowed. Water and wildfire mitigation expenses should be spent from the state budget and not interest-costing bonds. ***Vote NO on Prop. 4.***
• **Prop. 5 – NO.** Being saddled with a statewide deficit doesn't stop legislators who would inflict local taxpayers with debt for "affordable housing and infrastructure based on increased property taxes." Shifty legislators now ask us to lower the required voter approval for such expenditures from two-thirds to only 55%, another cute trick to burden local taxpayers.***Vote NO on Prop. 5.***
• **Prop. 33 – NO.** One of the last vestiges of small property ownership rights in California is to be able to rent your single-family property without excessive interference from state or local government. The present law protects the small property owner and makes it possible to pay for the upkeep, repair and mortgages on small rentals. Prop. 33 will further hinder rental construction because of the draconian measures written into Prop 33. Protect the rights of small property owners. ***Vote NO on Prop. 33.***
• **Prop. 35 – YES.** This ballot measure provides that the existing tax on managed health care insurance, which will otherwise expire in 2026, shall be permanent, if thereafter approved by the federal government. The tax provides money for medical treatment for low-income families with children, senior citizens, disabled people and other Medi-Cal recipients. It means increased money for Medi-Cal of $2 million to $5 billion annually and higher state costs of $1-2 billion each year for implementation. 99% of revenue must be used for patient care. There's no argument against Prop. 35 in the Voter Information Guide. ***Vote YES on Prop. 35.***
• **Prop. 36 – YES.** This voter-sponsored initiative in effect restores Penal Code prison and jail provisions which had encouraged "smash and grab" crimes, burglaries, (including auto thefts) and thefts in general. It's not only law enforcement and the courts which have been frustrated by the 2014 change in law to reduce penalties for thieves, but law-abiding citizens and California visitors who support Prop. 36. So do taxpayers. Convicted thieves will have an option to enter rehabilitation. Protect taxpayers and others. ***Vote YES on Prop. 36.***

Paid for by the San Francisco Taxpayer Association.
Judge Quentin L. Kopp (ret.), president, Peter Fatooh, vice president and Gina Tse-Louie, secretary-treasurer.

Commentary



Paul Kozakiewicz

It's Time to Vote!

Soon, San Francisco residents will get their mail-in ballots and the voting will begin. Because last year's election was rolled into this one, the SF Department of Elections voter pamphlet will be thicker than an old phone book. Nevertheless, it is important to read it in order to make informed decisions on the many candidates and propositions on the Nov. 5 election.

Upper Great Highway for Everyone

One of the most important issues facing the west side is way down the ballot, Proposition K, which would close the Upper Great Highway (UGH) to private vehicles.

The proposition qualified for the ballot on the last possible day (June 18) with the votes of five city supervisors, including District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio and District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar.

Engardio offered some convoluted reasoning for springing the citywide ballot measure, and why he and other advocates for closing the highway decided to keep the plan secret from the public and neighborhood and merchant organizations. The District 4 supervisor even has a monthly column in the Sunset Beacon where he could have explained his rationale for such a draconian plan.

It's no accident that property values are escalating near Ocean Beach, as developers and real-estate interests are eyeing buildings with increased height and bulk. The Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) movement is behind the effort, with leading advocate state Sen. Scott Weiner recently calling for properties near the beach to be divorced from oversight by the California Coastal Commission. He also sponsored numerous bills to bypass local planning decisions with a "state remedy," whereby developers can build multiple levels taller than is allowed by the SF Planning Code by adding a few affordable units. The City is powerless to stop developers using state guidelines.

Big money is coming in to ban vehicles from the Upper Great Highway, with one person, YIMBY advocate Jeremy Stoppelman, giving $300,000.

But numerous city leaders and politicians recognize a power grab and bad deal made in the darkness of a back room.

Mayoral candidates Aaron Peskin, Mark Farrell and Daniel Lurie support keeping the UGH open to everyone and urge their supporters to vote "no" on Prop. K. As well, Richmond District Supervisor Connie Chan and her challenger in the District 1 supervisorial race, Marjan Philhour, say "no."

Some local groups opposed to Prop. K include the Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR), Chinese American Democratic Club, Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association, People of the Parkside, Sunset (POPS), Irving Street Merchants Association and the Richmond and Sunset branches of the Chinatown Merchants Association.

Please vote "no" on Proposition K.

Lurie, Farrell, Peskin for Mayor

One of the most important decisions we make on Nov. 5 is who will lead us as mayor for the next four years.

San Francisco has a strong-mayor form of government, whereby our mayor needs to wield the levers of power to achieve desired results. And we need results.

With ranked-choice voting, San Franciscans can choose several candidates, listing them in the order of preference.

There are three top-flight candidates who could lead us in a new direction:

• Daniel Lurie has the chops to get the job done. As an outsider who is not afraid to make tough decisions, he would shake up the entrenched bureaucracy and get the City moving again.

In 2005, Lurie founded Tipping Point Community, which raised more than $500 million and claims measurable results on early childhood, employment, housing and education programs.

When Prop. K was sprung on the electorate; Lurie was the first candidate to take a principled stand to reject the measure. (daniellurie.com)

• Mark Farrell has already been a temporary mayor who understands finance and budgets. With projected deficits on the horizon, Farrell would be a good candidate to keep us financially solvent with a minimum amount of damage. He stresses the importance of public safety and favors taking a different approach to the City's drug use crisis. (markfarrell.com)

• Supervisor Aaron Peskin has earned the respect of a large swath of San Franciscans due to his institutional knowledge and informed discourse. While I sometimes differ with him on particular issues, he is respectful of the views of everyone and is confident enough to face his critics and explain in detail his policy decisions. Peskin is opposed to plans for extreme upzoning and the building of high-rises across the City – he would not sell out to the highest bidder. (Aaron2024.com)

I am leaving Mayor London Breed off my ballot as she failed to be an honest broker on behalf of all San Franciscans when the SF Board of Supervisors voted to close a portion of JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park, a roadway closed due to a worldwide pandemic. (City voters later approved the road closure.)

Breed also supports the misguided effort to restrict vehicles on the Upper Great Highway, the only major candidate to do so.

And when Geary merchants were fighting to limit the damage caused by the SF Municipal Transportation Agency's Bus Rapid Transit program on Geary Boulevard, she was nowhere to be found.

Two Good District 7 Candidates

Two strong candidates are running for supervisor in District 7.

• Matt Boschetto is a small business owner, parent and native San Franciscan. He is running because he wants to tackle many of the complex issues facing San Francisco, including public safety and transparency in city government. He also supports making it easier to operate a small business in the City.

"I am not an ideologue, I am a pragmatist," he said. (matt4supervisor.com)

• Stephen Martin-Pinto is a San Francisco firefighter who traces his family's history in the City back to the 1840s. He would shut down open-air drug markets, fully fund law enforcement, address homelessness "responsibly," end corruption at City Hall and promote housing and small business programs.

"I'm running because our City has a crisis of leadership. Our government lacks transparency, accountability and, most of all, integrity," Martin-Pinto said. (stephenmartinpinto.com)

Melgar Must Go

Supervisor Myrna Melgar is running

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 14

nade is already the City's third most visited park space according to the Recreation and Parks Department, demonstrating a clear desire by people to enjoy the oceanfront without going onto the beach itself. Parents with strollers, people using wheelchairs, kids learning to ride bikes – the pilot has opened the coast for them to enjoy in ways not possible on the beach.

That pilot expires next year, after which the Upper Great Highway will return to full-time use as a roadway. This election is the only chance for voters to have a direct say before that happens. Park opponents worked for years to undo the weekend pilot through multiple legal challenges including an appeal to the Coastal Commission this May, and even sponsored Prop. I in 2022 to require the Great Highway be used 24/7/365. Their persistence highlights a clear need for the voters to settle a simple question: Do San Franciscans want part of our coast to be a park?

The environmental benefits of a park are well documented. According to the SF Estuary Institute, a park promenade offers "the greatest and most immediate ecological benefits" for Ocean Beach because it "would eliminate fast-moving vehicles that restrict the movement of many animals, and reduce car-associated light and noise which can disorient and harm wildlife." The opportunity to restore the coastal dunes and remove pollution from car and tire brakes, which goes directly into the ocean and harms wildlife, has also garnered endorsements of Prop. K from the City's leading environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Golden Gate Bird Alliance, the League of Conservation Voters and others. Proposition K provides a park for San Franciscans today, but more importantly helps preserve Ocean Beach for future generations.

The success of the pilot park shows that people want to recreate by the coast. But the weekend-only pilot does not allow even the most basic park features like seating and art, because they get in the way of cars on weekdays. Prop. K would fix that, allowing the Recreation and Park Department to manage the space as a full-time park with full-time park amenities.

JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park shows us what that can look like, and how successful it can be. Without any additional park funding, converting JFK Drive into a promenade increased visitation to Golden Gate Park by 36%. Simple, low-cost improvements like seating and art improve the park experience for all visitors, but especially seniors and people with limited mobility. The same is possible on our coast. If Prop. K passes, the Recreation and Park Department will finally be able to make similar improvements to transform the Upper Great Highway into an oceanfront park promenade. Prop. K is also the necessary first step to begin conversations about what larger improvements the community would like to see, like adding bathrooms or other park amenities. Those conversations can't start until we first know whether the space will be a park in the first place.

In a challenging time for our City, Proposition K is a bright spot of opportunity. We can continue to fight Mother Nature to keep an unreliable roadway, or we can seize the opportunity to transform our coast into an unparalleled park space that will help us preserve Ocean Beach for the next generation. Will you join us in voting Yes on K?

Lucas Lux and Jane Lew, residents of the Outer Sunset and Outer Richmond respectively, and volunteer directors for the Friends of Great Highway Park

Editor:

As two generations of an Outer Sunset family – one in college, one having been retired for more than 20 years – we love our neighborhood. We love going on walks, enjoying ocean views and seeing children have space to play.

In the past, we mostly walked along the streets of the Avenues, but it was a whole new experience when the City closed part of the Upper Great Highway for the community to have the outdoor recreation space. Suddenly, we had this wide open space right next to the ocean, and it became a place where we could walk and enjoy nature in a new way.

When the Upper Great Highway is a park, we can immerse ourselves in the tranquility of the ocean and the beach without the distractions of car traffic.

We believe our community deserves this open space. As hard as we work to provide for our families and pay our bills, we need a place to take a break, so we can clear our minds, breathe fresh air, relax and unwind. A park serves this purpose for our community.

When we go to the Upper Great Highway when it is a park, we see communities connecting and being active together. We love spending time with family at free activities for the public, like live music, tai chi and yoga. The Upper Great Highway is also a space for us to have big celebrations with families and friends, like we've already seen during the Autumn Moon Festival and Halloween.

The Upper Great Highway as a park provides plenty of room for kids to play and for people of all ages to walk or bike by the ocean. We hope that Prop. K will encourage the City to add more benches to the space for seniors like us to sit down when we get tired of walking. We would also love to see more nature on our walks and know the Upper Great Highway Park would benefit from more flowers and plants. After all, it's a great place for us to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Voting yes on Proposition K could bring these changes, creating a beautiful park for all of us. Especially after considering the southern end of the Great Highway will already permanently close due to erosion into the ocean, supporting this proposition is even more sensible.

The opportunity to have a park right next to a beach is rare and special. We want to keep our peaceful oceanside strolls, make room for everyone to take a break from their stressful lives, and have space for children to run and bike around without worrying about cars. Establishing a full-time park will allow everyone to enjoy it whenever they have free time. Overall, the park will benefit all San Franciscans, with Sunset residents especially enjoying convenient access to it. That is why we are voting Yes on K.

Adrianna Zhang and grandparents, Outer Sunset residents

Sealevel Gallery

Continued from page 1

kicked out of art school for refusing to conform, Loraine dreamed of building a creative space on her own terms.

For 20 years, along with creating her own artwork, she has worked remotely for Zurich's "el Lokal," designing nautically-themed posters each month for its live shows. Now, as el Lokal transitions out of live music, she's completing her final poster for them and looking forward to focusing fully on Sealevel.

What began as a shared studio with friends has evolved into a thriving space for community events.

"I'm comfortable with most aspects of running the space because of my experience in hospitality, where I learned to make people feel seen and cared for," she said. "I envisioned a space like this in my early 20s, though I never saw anything exactly like it."

"With the growing popularity, I've had to step more into the spotlight. It's a challenge for me, but I'm learning to manage it. I focus on spotlighting the space and the people involved rather than myself," Loriane said.

She began with pop-ups, including a collaboration with Braid Bakery, and hosted her first music show, with Jacob Aranda and Sara Gallagher, about a year and a half ago. Last summer, the "Summer in the Sunset" exhibition featured 19 local artists, establishing Sealevel as a community hub. This year's exhibition, featuring 23 artists, is up now.

One of the most loved events at Sealevel is an open mic session started by local musician Sami Freeman, held on the last Thursday of each month. Other events include a solo theater performance curated by Jeremy Greco, a twice-monthly watercolor class, a songwriter circle hosted by Grammy-nominated artist Frances England, an "ambiguous grief" group, writing circles, sea urchin dyeing workshops and more.

Owner Jeana Loraine in front of Sealevel Gallery on Irving Street, between 44th and 45th avenues. In addition to featuring her work and those of other artists, Sealevel has become a community hub for various performances and events. ***Photo by Richard Osborn.***

Loraine describes Sealevel as a "third space," beyond home or work, fostering creativity, connection, and engagement. Events are capped at 36 people and the space feels like a cozy living room, encouraging participation.

Accessibility is a core value, with many free and "no one turned away for lack of funds" events. Artists are fairly compensated. It has been important to Loriane to support those who might not otherwise have access to community resources like this. Sealevel has been self-funded, but she is exploring sustainable ways to keep it going, including using event revenue to cover costs.

Loraine recently launched "Sealevel Kin," a membership program offering various tiers of sponsorship with exclusive benefits, as a way to support local arts in this intimate, safe, collaborative and inclusive Sealevel way.

"Even $5 a month makes a big difference," Loraine shared. "It adds up."

As Loraine finishes her final project for el Lokal, she is hopeful Sealevel can continue.

"I'm considering how to sustain and possibly grow the space," she said. "Right now, my focus is on covering essential costs and continuing to build momentum. In the future, I'd like to expand to accommodate up to 50 people. The original location of The Lost Church, in the Mission District, was a model for me. Its intimate, magical setting with about 50 seats was inspiring."

She encourages everyone to visit the Sealevel website to learn more and participate in the Sealevel Kin program, at any level they are able. Or just stop by.

"I'm always open to collaboration ideas and encourage people to come experience the space firsthand. It's all about creating a co-creative environment where everyone can contribute and feel welcome."

Sealevel is located at 4331 Iriving St. Learn more at sealevelsf.com.

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Tamara de Lempicka Takes Center Stage in Film Festival, Gallery Exhibit

By Noma Faingold

"Each of my paintings is a self-portrait."
– Tamara de Lempicka

Filmmaker Julie Rubio first came face-to-face with Tamara de Lempicka's seductive art at a hotel in Miami many years ago, when she was 21.

"I'm sure they were copies, but I was drawn to the way she depicts women in her nudes," Rubio said. "At first, the eyes seemed distant and then I connected to them."

Thus began a decades-long fascination with the Warsaw-born artist, that eventually led to writing, producing and directing the documentary, "The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka and the Art of Survival," having its world premiere at the Mill Valley Film Festival with two screenings, Oct. 11 and 13.

Coincidentally, the first retrospective exhibit in the United States of Lempicka (1894-1980) will open at the de Young Museum on Oct. 12 and run through Feb. 9, 2025. The exhibition then travels to the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, March 9 through May 2025.

The elegant paintings and drawings, synonymous with Art Deco design/era, were so impactful to Rubio, who was born in Los Angeles and has lived in Orinda for 25 years, that she discovered, like Lempicka, she was bisexual.

"Gay, straight or bi – whatever you want to call yourself – women do look at other women. We do have crushes and we do have feelings for each other," Rubio said.

Rubio actually started writing a narrative script 20 years ago, after meeting several of Lempicka's family members at San Francisco's Weinstein Gallery. Soon she was developing the project with granddaughter Victoria de Lempicka and great granddaughters Cristina and Marisa de Lempicka.

Years later, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, finding financing for a period film with an unproven female director – who is best known for producing the 2014 feature film, "East Side Sushi" – was not happening. So, Rubio proposed pivoting to a documentary. Raising funds was still a challenge. Being on the board of the San Francisco nonprofit Women in Film, Rubio, now the board president, got a lot of support from the local organization. Her husband, Blake Wellen, became a co-producer.

While working on the doc for the last four and a half years, Rubio found that she related to Lempicka for other reasons, specifically growing up biracial, her father being Mexican and her mother white. Because Lempicka witnessed widespread anti-Semitism in Europe from World War I through the rise of Nazism, she hid her Jewish identity, even during the anything goes, roaring '20s in Paris, where she was open about her sexuality, yet she "passed" as Catholic. She spoke French to further assimilate. She led a decadent lifestyle during those years, threw lavish parties and her art was celebrated.

Rubio experienced prejudice growing up in Southern California.

"I understood where Tamara was coming from. I heard racial slurs," she said. "I was raised to not be proud of being Mexican. We were told to check the 'white' box."

Through her exhaustive research, Rubio was able to obtain Lempicka's real birth records in Russia, which revealed her actual birth name (Tamara Rosa Hurwitz, replacing previously known Tamara Rosalia Gurwik-Górska), date (it was thought she was born in 1898) and the fact that her grandparents were buried in a Jewish cemetery.

It was a revelation to the members of the Lempicka family, several of whom are featured in the film, along with never-before-seen home movies. Rubio also shared her findings with co-curators of the Lempicka exhibit, Furio Rinaldi, curator in charge of the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and Gioia Mori, author, art history professor in Italy and leading Lempicka scholar.

The film aims to show what is behind Lempicka's paintings. At certain periods, she lived a glamorous, privileged life, like when she was married to her first husband, Tadeusz Lempicki, until they had to flee Russia almost overnight in 1917 for Paris.

"She was really giving the world a message through her paintings," Rubio said.

Paris was amazing until it was obvious the Nazis would invade France. In 1939, Lempicka and her second husband, Baron Raoul Kuffner, who was 17 years older and Jewish, sold their property and art and moved to the U.S. The couple, both bisexual, had an open marriage. But they were best friends. Her lovers were often models and muses and depicted in erotic poses.

"Young Girl in Green (Young Girl with Gloves)," ca. 1931 by Tamara de Lempicka (1894-1980). Photo: Bertrand Prévost. Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

In the U.S., Lempicka first lived in Beverly Hills then moved to New York. At that time, her paintings, which combined Cubism, Russian avant-garde, surrealism and 18th century Neoclassic styles, were not on trend. But she kept painting and experimented a bit. After her husband died, she moved to Houston in 1963, where her daughter Marie-Christine "Kizette" lived. Her last residence was at a serene property Cuernavaca, Mexico, until Lempicka died in 1980.

While filming in 2022, Rubio lost her mother, Elizabeth Anne Rubio, and her best friend, Wendy Alice Yorke Schroeder, within a month of each other. How Lempicka survived unrest and how she kept reinventing herself was an inspiration to Rubio to keep going.

"In times of darkness, she was able to find the light and she kept creating," Rubio said. "Like Lempicka, I can take something dark, go toward the light and make something beautiful."

Lempicka's most revered work today, in both the art market and in popular culture, is her sleek, theatrical portraits and female nudes, which still look modern.

"She saw what women could be in the future. Her art speaks to the future," Rubio said. "She had an imagination of what could be, not just for herself, but for all women."

Collectors include Madonna and Barbra Streisand. At auction, Lempicka's paintings have sold for $17 million to $21 million in the last few years, third highest among female artists. There has been a new recognition of her polished style. A Broadway musical called, "Lempicka," had a run last spring.

The de Young exhibition features 60 paintings and 40 drawings, as well as a selection of Art Deco objects, sculptures and dresses from FAMSF's collection that provide perspective on the artist's process and historical context. It's organized in four chronological sections. One centerpiece is the 1928 self-portrait, "Autoportrait (Tamara in a Green Bugatti)." The painting, commissioned for a cover of the German fashion magazine, Die Dame, shows a stylish woman in charge of her own destiny.

Rinaldi, who spent three years researching and putting the "Tamara de Lempicka" exhibit together, anticipates visitors will see "her ambition, glamour and incredible talent. She's not in the shadow of anyone. She was alone in her own greatness," he said.

"The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka and the Art of Survival," will have its world premiere at the Mill Valley Film Festival. Two screenings: Oct. 11, 7 p.m., at Sequoia 2 and Oct. 13, 2 p.m. at The Lark Theater. Among the expected guests are Director Julie Rubio, Marisa de Lempicka and Victoria de Lempicka. Find more information at mvff.com.

"The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka and the Art of Survival" will be screened independently at San Francisco's Roxie Theater, Oct. 26, 1 p.m. Director Julie Rubio is expected to attend. Learn more at roxie.com.

Tamara de Lempicka, the first U.S. retrospective of the artist, will be on display from Oct. 12 through February 9, 2025, at the de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. in Golden Gate Park.

Julie Rubio, director/producer/writer of the documentary, "The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka and the Art of Survival," at the Art Deco Redwood Room in the Clift Hotel in downtown San Francisco. *Photo by Noma Faingold.*

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Cal Academy Exhibit Features NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Life

By Clarisse Kim

In our vast solar system, one moon has attracted serious attention from NASA scientists.

Europa, one of 95 moons orbiting the largest planet – the gas giant Jupiter more than 400 million miles away from Earth – may hold the first clues to life beyond our home planet.

From Sept. 4 to 9, the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park hosted "Voyage of Europa Clipper: Exploring an Alien Ocean," a special exhibit sponsored by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The pop-up was designed to engage the public about the JPL's mission to send a spacecraft to Europa in hopes of confirming conditions suitable for extraterrestrial life.

From an eight-foot inflatable model of Europa to detailed three-dimensional renderings of Clipper's instruments, each aspect of the exhibit served to boost excitement for the spacecraft's scheduled launch this month.

"One thing that I really liked about the exhibit is just seeing the huge blow-up Europa," said Jacqueline Benitez, the Academy's assistant manager of Planetarium Programs. "A lot of the times when we're looking at images from spacecrafts, we don't get to see things in 3-D. Having the model makes you fully realize that this is an actual object in space."

On Sept. 9, the Academy hosted Dr. Kevin Hand, the Europa Clipper project co-investigator and director of NASA JPL's Ocean Worlds Lab, at one of the museum's Benjamin Dean Astronomy Lectures. During the talk, Hand described Europa's potential for life, which is what makes this particular moon enticing to researchers at NASA.

"When NASA talks about the search for life beyond Earth, we're talking about the search for even the tiniest of microbes," Hand said. "Finding a single-celled organism would truly revolutionize the role of biology in the universe, and our place in it."

Hand took an enraptured audience on a tour of the galaxy using the planetarium screen as his spacecraft. With the help of the 75-foot digital dome, Hand was able to dissect each layer of Europa, from its icy crust to its salty oceans to its core. Attendees were able to get face to (planet) face with what Hand called "the tangled yarn" of Europa – rust-brown fissures and all.

Hand also broke down the process of unraveling Europa's secrets from millions of miles away. Describing the research process as "adhering to airport security," "viewing the rainbow connection," and "babysitting a spacecraft," Hand was able to use principles of gravity, spectroscopy and data from older spacecrafts to determine Europa's makeup.

Inspired by the findings, JPL engineers were able to build the Clipper in five years. The spacecraft is scheduled to launch soon and planned to reach Europa in 2030, where it will execute nearly 50 flybys of the moon, collecting data with every pass.

Researchers hope to receive confirmation on their hypotheses. Hand is also looking forward to seeing the first clear images of Europa's terrain.

"Part of what excites me about the time in which we live is that, for the first time in the history of humanity, we have the tools and technology to go out beyond and answer these profound and fundamental questions," Hand said. "The high-resolution imager on Clipper is going to collect images at an extraordinary zoom, allowing us to infer not just the geology, but the chemistry of Europa. We have instruments on board that can even search for organics on the surface."

The Europa exhibit is one of many around the United States. Benitez said JPL extended its invitation to the Academy because of the museum's aquarium and planetarium. The Academy's unique exhibits allow visitors to explore both the oceans and space after visiting the pop-up.

"We also have these beautiful real-time visualizations at our planetarium," Benitez said. "We're able to take people to these places in space, contextualize what they're actually seeing, and help them understand our place in the universe."

According to Benitez, The Benjamin Dean Astronomy Lectures have been an Academy tradition since the 1980s. Hand's talk has been one of the first lectures in recent years to have coincided with a specialized exhibit. The JPL's collaboration with the Academy helped the event sell out all available tickets, filling 290 seats in the planetarium.

"This event, we actually had a teacher there with a bunch of their students, which was really cool to see," Benitez said. "They always have more insightful questions than adults."

The Europa Clipper presentation has also reminded Benitez about what makes the Dean Lectures meaningful to the community.

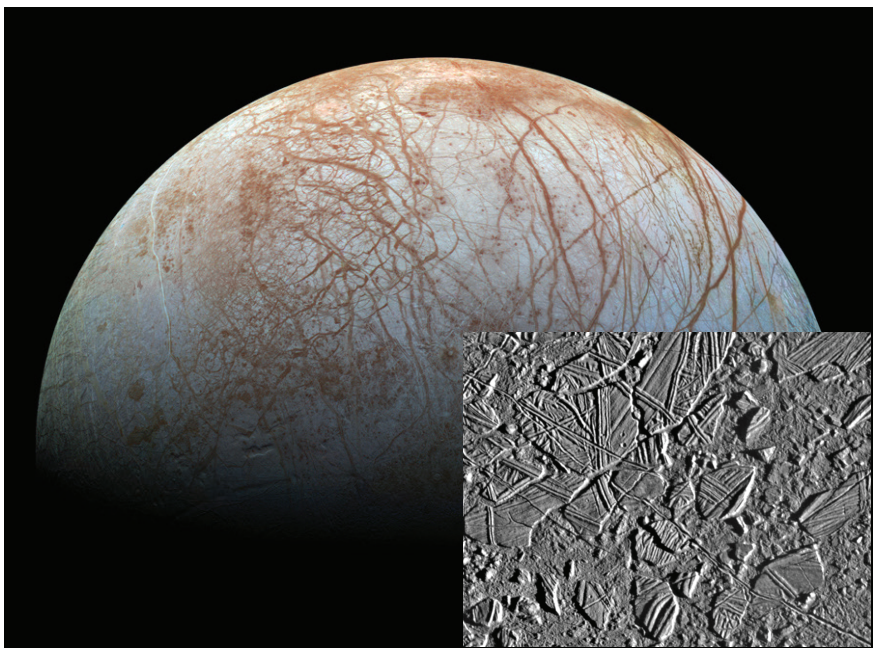
"As observers here on Earth, we might not understand all the data that NASA collects, or all the reasons why they're sending out these spacecrafts," Benitez said. "Being able to have these hands-on learning experiences helps solidify why we are doing these explorations beyond planet Earth."

Scientists at the Academy look forward to the Clipper's launch. In the meantime, visitors are encouraged to explore more of the institution's astronomy engagements, including their award-winning planetarium shows and even more Dean Lectures, typically held on the first Monday every month. The Academy expects to explore a myriad of new topics in these talks, including the atmosphere of the sun and the process of understanding photographs from telescopes.

"I know these events allow people to explore the world and even talk to a scientist about what they're seeing," Benitez said. "Maybe this exhibit sparked a love for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in our guests."

"It is my hope that perhaps decades or centuries from now, our exploration of our solar system with missions like Clipper will someday be seen as having sparked a new understanding of the phenomenon of life," Hand said. "And potentially through that exploration, we can bring a universe to life."

To learn more about the Europa Clipper mission, visit europa.nasa.gov/. To learn more about the Benjamin Dean astronomy lectures, visitcalacademy.org/events/benjamin-dean-astronomy-lectures.



The puzzling, fascinating surface of Jupiter's icy moon Europa looms large in this newly-reprocessed color view, made from images taken by NASA's Galileo spacecraft in the late 1990s. This is the color view of Europa from Galileo that shows the largest portion of the moon's surface at the highest resolution. Overlay: This high resolution image shows the ice-rich crust of Europa, one of the moons of Jupiter. The photo shows crustal plates ranging up to eight miles (13 kilometers) across, which have been broken apart and "rafted" into new positions. *Photos and captions courtesy of NASA.*

EUROPA
CLIPPER
Kevin Hand, PhD...and 1000+ people around the globe
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory / California Institute of Technology

Above: Dr. Kevin Hand, Europa Clipper project co-investigator and director of NASA JPL's Ocean Worlds Lab, presents at the California Academy of Sciences' planetarium. During the lecture, Hand discussed the NASA Europa Clipper mission—the initiative to send a spacecraft to Europa in hopes of detecting conditions suitable for extraterrestrial life. *Photo by Clarisse Kim.*

Paul Kozakiewicz

Continued from page 20

for re-election in District 7, which includes Golden Gate Heights and the Inner Sunset.

Melgar is a knee-jerk reactionary who is lousy at creating good policies. She's gotta go.

She supported the effort to close JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park, creating serious equity issues that still have not been addressed, supports Prop. K to close the Upper Great Highway and restrict vehicle access and used a tragic traffic accident near West Portal Avenue to expedite changes that could have negative consequences. She testified the changes at West Portal Avenue did not have the full support of merchants and others who called for restraint and more study and those who wanted to turn the avenue into a pedestrian mall. Perhaps changes were not necessary.

If Melgar were a divorce court judge, she would order the family cat cut in half so each side could have a piece.

Melgar also supported moving people living in recreational vehicles from Winston Drive near the Stonestown Mall to Zoo Road, next to the Janet Pomeroy Center for disabled children. She created an unfortunate situation for the center, but sanity prevailed when the mayor intervened and ordered the vehicles removed.

Paul Kozakiewicz is an editor and former publisher of the Sunset Beacon and Richmond Review newspapers.

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